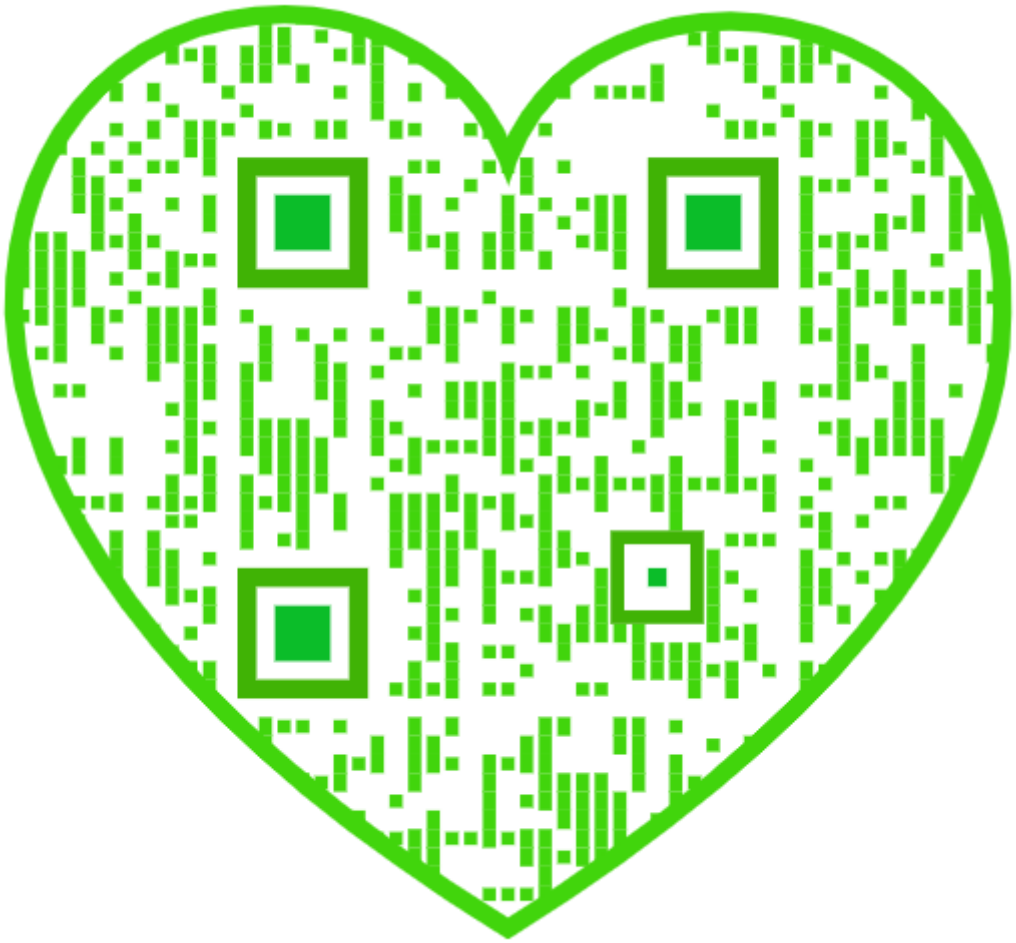

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THE

Career and Reminiscences

OF AN

Amateur Journalist,

AND A

History of Amateur Journalism.

BY THOS. G. HARRISON,

Ex-President of the National and Western Amateur Press Associations.

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INDIANAPOLIS, IND.:
THOS. G. HARRISON, Publisher & Printer.
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Publisher's Advertisement.

It has been over a year since the work of writing and printing this little volume commenced, but the task has been a pleasant one, and the author feels great satisfaction in being finally able to present to his readers, of the Amateur Journalistic Press, the result of his labors for their inspection. During the year, the plan upon which this book was first intended to be published, has been changed several times, as the author found his matter accumulate. At first, it was his idea, to include in these few pages, not only a complete history of his doings as an Amateur Journalist in the years 1876 to 1881, but also a series of essays upon Amateur Journalism, and a number of his contributions which had been made to the Amateur Press. It was with this intention that fully one

hundred pages of the book were printed. After the "Career and Reminiscences" were in the printer's hands, and some few pages of that portion of this work had been printed, it was seen, that, if the manuscript was to be continued in the same style as it had been commenced, that the volume would necessary have to be made much larger than was first intended, even with the curtailment of the intended essays upon Amateur Journalism and the literary articles, so it was determined to make the book of some 400 or 450 pages. But as the typographical work on the volume was continued, and the author well progressed with what is now incorporated under these covers, it was made manifest that his "copy" would be far too much to be placed in 450 printed pages of a book of this size, so another change of plans was necessary, and finally it was concluded to issue this work in two volumes, especially as the present one has been under headway for so long a period, and as the work on the second *may* require the same length of time that has been devoted to the completion of the first, in which case, were the publication of the herein contained matter deferred, many amateur journalists and personal friends of the author, in the naturally ephemeral career of amateur journalists, would have pro-

bably severed their connection with Amateur Journalism, who have been the inspirators of his continued work and these pages, and would probably fail to read what they have been the means of instigating. And, again, as this little volume has not been issued as a means of bringing pecuniary returns, nor will be the second volume, there is always the doubt, whether or not a second volume would finally reach completion, although it is intended and anticipated by the author that it shall, health and leisure permitting. So, all-in-all, it has been deemed best that this humble contribution to Amateur Journalistic literature be issued in its present shape, and in such, the publisher trusts that it will be favorably received.

PREFACE.

The author of this work may be accused of a lack of modesty, in his attempt at relating his experience as an Amateur Journalist, and it may be claimed that what he has to say, does not justify the perpetuation of print. Especially may this view find favor among those readers of this book, who have heretofore been unacquainted with and ignorant of the existence and aims of Amateur Journalism. Among readers of this class, and particularly when past the first blush of youth, such a criticism can but be expected. However the task which the author and printer placed on his shoulders, of which this little volume is the result, was not for their benefit, and he respectfully submits that their criticisms can not be intelligent and understanding, upon a subject, which they, themselves, can not claim to be versed in.

"The Career and Reminiscences of an Amateur Journalist" has been written and published for several reasons. First, to present the claims of Amateur Journalism as an Educational Institution and School for Professional Journalism," both of which honorable titles have been given it by men high in the esteem of the Nation and the World. Secondly, in the hope that the reading of these pages will influence youths, who have a taste for literature, to engage in Amateur Journalism and become, themselves, of the Mimic Press. Thirdly, to present to the Amateur Fraternity in these pages, a much more complete History of Amateur Journalism than has ever yet been undertaken or published. Fourthly, to give Amateur Journalism one representative, at least, in the book world, for although its papers have reached "professional" size and excellence, its "books" have almost invariably been unworthy the name; no representatives of "Amateurdom" can find place upon the book-shelves of the bibliomaniac, were he to search the world over, and this little volume, small as it is, is twice as large as the most ambitious book ever issued by an amateur journalist, and that volume was a "Directory." As a literary attempt, this book is over three times larger than any similar pamphlet ever issued from

the amateur press. And then, if the plans of the author are successful, and he is able to complete his memoirs in another volume, somewhat larger than this one, the two, bound as one book, will grace any library in the country, as far as their size is concerned, and proudly find many "professional" works that will be much smaller than this representative of Amateur Journalism.

Finally, this book was issued as a souvenir of the author's pleasantest days,—the days when he was wrapped up in Amateur Journalism, and his whole existence seemed centered with his minature exchanges, the days, when, as the spirit of ambition and the desire to excell possessed him, he virtually worked day and night in the interests of his beloved *alma mater*,—the days of the glorious reunions and amateur conventions, when he met, face to face, his favorite correspondents from all sections of the country, and found them to be of kindred and companionable spirits to his own. It is issued as a souvenir of all that has helped to improve him, and as an offering to the Goddess whom he has adored—to Amateurdom—the pride of his youth, and the mistress of his highest regard and esteem.

In this book is shown what can be accomplished by any youth of literary tastes, a

fair modicum of brains, and an ability to stick at one thing until he has made it a success. Not that the author makes any pretensions to have accomplished more than could have been done by any of his fellows in the ranks—he claims no superiority over hundreds of youths who journeyed along with him—yet, by chance or destiny, he rose from the lowest round of the amateur ladder to occupy the most exalted political position. In this "Career" he shows the "fun" of being an Amateur Journalist,and tries to depict the pleasure which can be enjoyed through connection with the fraternity, at the same time that he endeavors to point out, by his own example, the instruction and improvement in literary composition, which may also ensue. And here, again, he does not claim that the instruction which *he* has received has advanced him among the front ranks of *litterateurs,* but merely lays claim to *what he does know*, as the result of a six year's training in Amateur Journalism.

The author will also call attention to the fact that the claims made in the "Career," as to his standing in the eyes of the Amateur Journalistic Fraternity, are in every case where made, substantiated by the published comments of the Amateur Press, and that he has made no assertions in regard to his own

ability—leaving all opinions on that point entirely at the mercy of his readers and critics.

This book, small as it is, has only been issued by days of labor on the part of the author, who has not only written the manuscript, but has also "set" and "destributed" the type, made the "forms ready" and has done the presswork, all of which work, when falling upon one person, forms quite a task and one that has consumed much time. And in addition to that, the labor which the publication of this book entailed, had to be done out of business hours, and the major portion is the result of the burning of the gas-light. So it can be seen that this book represents many an evening torn from the theatre and other amusements, but the author does not regret them. The "Career" has become like an old friend to him, and in writing these last necessary pages to introduce it to the world, he feels somewhat like he was parting from an old and dear comrade. Yes, my book! you and I have passed many pleasant hours in each other's company, and in the research of the three or four thousand amateur papers, through which we carefully examined, one by one! Your author has had you uppermost in his thoughts for many a long day since; and to think that

now you will soon be gone from him forever, and only your printed reminiscence left to remind him of the hours when far into the night we worked together, until we both grew sleepy. But, my book, your author has now nearly said his say, and the closing lines of his long toil are near at hand.

The author might have done much better in some respects, in the work on this volume, had he but had or taken the time, for from the period when work was first commenced, since the first scratch of the pen was made, and the first line of type was "set," everything that has been accomplished has been done in a great hurry, consequent upon the fact that all had to be done in what were usually his hours of leisure. But now that the volume is finished, and the work completed, it only remains for the author to ask the indulgence of his readers and critics.

In conclusion I bid farewell to the pleasant labor on the book, and greeting to its readers, in the hope that it will find, in their possession, some appreciation and regard—that it will win some of their esteem and commendation.

THE AUTHOR.

Indianapolis, Ind., January 11th, 1883.

INTRODUCTORY.

Amateur Journalism.

WHAT IT IS.

AMATEUR JOURNALISM, as an Institution and corporate body, has now been in existence nearly a score of years and its graduates number in the tens of thousands.

The name, *Amateur Journalism*, suggests nothing to a curious public, and that such a thing exists, is known but to comparatively a few of the great masses which constitute the country. True, there are some who have a vague idea that there is a class of young people, who, in a way, print papers and write editorials, but even they do not understand the scope or extent of the work.

Yet Amateur Journalism is exerting a most powerful influence upon many of the youths of this generation, and when its object, purpose and influence is known, commands universal approbation and commendation. The greatest men of this country have signified the esteem in which they regard these mimic newspapers and their influence and have expressed their belief that the training to be derived from them forms a most admirable "School for Professional Journalism," and "Educational Institution."

Presidents Grant, Hayes and Garfield have all been subscribers to amateur papers. Ex-speaker Randall, of the U. S. Congress, has stated as his belief, that "Amateur Journalism is the noblest work engaged in by American Youth," and Horace Greeley also uttered sentiments quite similar. I note this, to impress ignorant and enquiring readers with the fact that the merits of "Amateurdom," as we take pleasure in calling it, have not been entirely overlooked.

There are at the present time, some eight or nine hundred boys and girls, or young men and women, as some of them might be better pleased to be called, varying from twelve to twenty-four and twenty-five years of age, engaged in printing, editing and contributing to some two or three hundred minature publica-

tions, varying in size from not larger than a postal card, to the equal of many professional journals. These little papers are nearly all printed very well, and usually by the publishers themselves, though sometimes it happens that the proprietors have no printing office of their own and are compelled to have their work executed by either professional printers, or by brother cotemporaries in the amateur field. And it is no more than justice on my part, when I say that in many cases, the printing by amateur typographers equals and even surpasses that of many professional printers.

These amateur papers, in the publication of which, centralizes Amateurdom, as a usual thing, are *not* self-supporting and lose money for the ambitious proprietor, with every issue. In fact, this is now known to be so generally the rule, that I believe I am safe in asserting that few amateur journals are started whose proprietors even hope to pay expenses. I have no doubt that this statement will surprise such of my readers who are as yet uninitiated and unacquainted with Amateur Journalism, but I will come direct to the point and state the *motive* that induces the amateur journalist to continue in a money losing investment—the lodestone which makes Amateur Journalism what it is.

In brief, then, amateur journals are published for the benefit of receiving exchanges. Amateurdom forms a vast literary society, whose members express their opinions, state their arguments upon topics under discussion, expound their theories, and thus improve their literary composition, through the columns of their papers. The chance that is thus given a member of the fraternity, by hard work and diligent study, to so improve himself and the effusions of his pen, that he will become one of the leaders of this little literary world, and make his name celebrated for years to come and recorded in the annals of Amateur Journalism, is the same chance, a little lower in the scale of life, that induces man to spend years of toil and research; and his elevation to the halls of Congress or the professorship of Colleges, is no more to him than the honors of Amateurdom are to its disciples, and is obtained and toiled and worked for from the same motives that induces the youth to enter and cling to the Amateur Press—*Ambition and Fame.*

The youth who enters the field of Amateur Journalism, in many cases comes with no appreciation of its merits, and in few instances may retire in the same ignorance. The novice may enter upon his career as an ama-

teur journalist without realizing a definite purpose. But when the exchanges which he receives for his little sheet, commence coming to him, among them journals, the editors of which have been long in the ranks, and who have acquired a polished diction, and versatility of thought, the novice, who may have been disposed to consider Amateur Journalism merely as a little different order of play than baseball and games of that ilk, has his eyes opened. When he sees the esteem and respect in which certain members of the fraternity, it may be but little older than himself, are held; how they are looked up to; and when he reads the productions of these amateurs, and notes the apparent ease with which they write masterful and comprehensive articles upon topics which he understands not, and which would do credit to many older heads; when he realizes all these facts, then our novice, if he have the first principles of a journalist or litterateur in his composition, grows ambitious. What youth has done before, youth can do again, he takes for his motto, and he labors on in the ranks, and if he labors faithfully and with a desire to improve, the fact is soon recognized and commented upon by his fellow amateurs. Words of encouragement and praise are given him — amateur journalists have always

been generous and ready in their appreciation of ability and painstaking labor—and finally it may be that our youth, now a novice no longer, may stand upon the same plane and level with those very amateurs, up to whom, a few months before, he looked with admiring surprise and respect.

Through the ambition to excel in literary composition, which Amateur Journalism infuses into four fifths of its recruits, has it blazed itself a pathway as an Educational Institution. The pen picture I have given above is one that is proving itself true to nature every month in the year, and the inherent lodestone that forms the basis of all success, AMBITION, is the founder, upholder and mainstay of Amateur Journalism.

Of course there are and have been youths who have entered Amateur Journalism, passed an unnoticed and ignored career and finally departed from the ranks, without benefiting either themselves or their associates. But it is themselves that are to blame—the opportunity is presented for literary improvement and if it is not grasped, reflects no discredit upon our Institution. Scholarships to Colleges may be presented and used, yet if the tuition and benefits to be derived from College are neglected and unsought, the result is barren. Amateurdom presents an

open scholarship to any and all comers. Upon their acceptance, by hard work and study, by continually tasking the brain with improving thought, the result cannot but be most beneficial. Such is my view of Amateurdom, and such, also, is the opinion entertained by all those "graduates," who have employed their brief stay in the ranks in an endeavor at self-improvement and culture.

That the benefit to be derived from Amateur Journalism is worthy the name, I might cite hundreds of instances, which have come to my personal knowledge, wherein former members of the ranks, who have long ceased all connection with their *alma mater*, have risen to high and honorary positions in the world of journalism. Every large city has its journalists who were formerly merely amateur wielders of the quill, and high among the names of the professional litterateurs, can be found those of men who derived their first taste for literature, their first knowledge of the newspaper profession, from their connection with Amateur Journalism. And the well-known professional magazines, the repositories of the choicest literature of the country, are graced frequently with the productions of ex-amateur writers.

Outside of the literary field, engaged in

different pursuits, are men who owe their taste for literature and appreciation of correct composition, to their experience in the amateur fraternity.

In more respects than one can Amateurdom be likened to a College—the fellowship and fraternal good-feeling that exists among its members, only finds its counterpart between the class-mates of our institutions of learning, and the friendships formed while in the ranks of Amateur Journalism, are enduring, hearty and beneficial.

It is thus, and with these ends, that I take pleasure in presenting Amateur Journalism to the notice of my readers. My pen has not glossed the picture in the least, and while I write of it with affection and pride, as becomes one who has himself received benefit, such as it is, from his connection with the fraternity, yet I have endeavored to speak of it only in its true lights, and lay claim to no excellencies or advantages for it, that it does not possess.

Amateur Journalism:

ITS HISTORY,

FROM ORIGIN TO THE PRESENT DAY.

MINATURE PAPERS, published by youths for pleasure, instruction or a small, anticipated profit, have been issued at intervals for a hundred years, and even in the days of CAXTON for all I know, although there are no records descending to us, wherein such achievements of our ancestors were noted.

It has been claimed, but upon what authority I know not, that the immortal Benjamin Franklin was the publisher of an amateur journal, but I doubt whether "Poor Richard" can descend to posterity with the honorary legend of "Amateur Journalist" embellishing his illustrious name.

The first authentic record which I have as to the publication of a minature paper by a boy, is that of the *Juvenile Portfolio and Literary Miscellany* by Thomas G. Cundie, Jr., "the immortal Cundie," as amateur journalists take pleasure in calling him, a boy of fourteen, who, although suffering severely from pulmoray consumption, published his paper regularly for five years, commencing October 17th, 1812. The name was then changed to *Parlor Companion*, and was also increased in size, but after May, 1816, all trace is lost of Cundie and his little weekly.

To the now well known author, Nathaniel Hawthorne, belongs the credit of inaugurating the second amateur paper, although it was not until August 21st, 1820, nearly eight years after Tom Cundie had launched forth his initial effort, that he issued number one of the *Spectator*. In James T. Field's essay on Hawthorne, and speaking of his paper, he says, "A prospectus was issued the week before, setting forth that the paper would be issued on Wednesdays, price twelve cents per annum, payment to be made at the end of the year." But the *Spectator* was not fated to survive a year, and after six issues it silently passed into oblivion. The *Spectator* was neatly *written* by the hand of its editor, who at that time was in his sixteenth year.

There seems to have been a void from 1820 to 1846, in which, were there any journals of this class issued, their fame has not descended with the years, but in 1846, Wm. Henry Dutton, afterwards editor of the Boston *Daily Transcript*, published the *Sunbeam*, a journal of four pages, each page 5x7 inches, which had an existence of six years, the first number appearing April 4th, 1846, and the last April 17th, 1852. The *Sunbeam* was a weekly, printed finely on Pearl type, had a circulation of 250 copies and paid expenses.

In 1851 two boys of Skaneaths, N. Y., started the *Democrat*; it was the same size as Cundie's paper, 6x10 inches, but it suspended after issuing four numbers. In 1853 the *Gravesend Item* was issued, but from where or by whom I am unable to state. A weekly paper called the *Coos Herald*, was issued in Lancaster, N. H., during the latter part of 1858, by a fourteen year old boy, named C. H. Kent. This journal was said to be neat and attractive in appearance and was published at $1.00 per year.

In 1860 was issued the *Bath Union*, of Bath, Maine. This paper also attracted attention on account of its neat and handsome appearance. It was published by Robert H. Canfield and Robert Lee.

The annals of the different States show that about and from this time, until 1869, there was a constant succession of minature papers, each year having at least one representative. Of these, I will only make mention of those which have obtained national celebrity among amateur journalists.

Miss Nellie Williams, a young lady of thirteen, issued the *Penfield Extra*, at Penfield, N. Y., soon after the commencement of the war of the rebellion. This is the first record I have of a young lady amateur journalist. Her brother owned a printing office, but left it and entered the army. Nellie, having obtained some knowledge of the "art preservative," resolved not to allow the printing office remain idle during her brother's absence, and so undertook the publication of the paper above mentioned, which was known as "Little Nellie's little paper." It was issued for some time as a weekly paper, contained sixteen columns, and was liberally patronized by advertisers.

Cotemporaneous with the *Extra*, was the *Monitor* of Exeter, N. H., edited by a boy named C. M. Lane.

Cousin Lizzie's Little Joker was the name of a handsome little paper published in New York in 1864 by a little girl twelve years old.

Henry E. Wheeler, who adopted the *nom*

de plume of "Punch, the Printer," published the *Weekly Star* from Evansville, Ind., in 1866, but it only survived two months. Undaunted by the fate of his first venture, in the following year, Wheeler issued, "every once in a while," the *Welcome Visitor*. Wheeler has also the honor of publishing the first amateur book. It was entitled "Stories for the Young, and Amusing Tales for Instruction and 5 cents," published by the "Star Printing Company," of which Wheeler was the head. He also issued a "Life of Oliver Optic."

F. A. Sterne, of Williamsburg, L. I., during 1868–9, published three amateur books, all written by "Harry St. Clair, Jr.," subsequently a very popular author, and contributor to the columns of amateur publications until as late as 1878. Sterne also published *Our Standard* and the *Northern Star*, which afterwards changed to the *Patriot*.

1869.

The historian now approaches an era when Amateur Journalism as it now exists, as a corporate body and institution, first sprang into life. The word "amateur," when applied in connection with journalism, has been perverted until it has acquired the meaning of *juvenile*, and among the amateur fraternity themselves, is used to designate only one

of their own class, and to papers which are conducted after a certain prescribed, but hardly definable form.

From 1869 does the real history of Amateur Journalism commence. It was about this time that the Novelty Printing Press, a cheap machine, but one capable of good work, was first thrown on the market. With the invention of this press, the career of young printers began. It was something entirely new, and amateurs who had been at great shifts in printing their papers, discarded their cheese and cider presses and eagerly seized the opportunity of purchasing, at a low price, a real printing m chine. Once the means of publishing a journal lay within their reach, amateurs became editors by the score.

Some writers, in speaking of the origin of Amateur Journalism as it is, claim *Oliver Optic's Magazine* as the true scource. This is erroneous, but it is a fact, that had it not been for the encouragement amateurs received from "Oliver Optic," I am confident that amateur journalism would not have advanced as it has. The invention of amateur printing presses is mostly due to the magazine he had charge of.

The *Owl*, published at Minneapolis, Minn.. has been mentioned as the oldest amateur

paper then known; its name certainly implies that it was the *wisest.*

Chas. S. Diehl, ex-editor of the celebrated *Our Boys* of Chicago, and now engaged on the staff of the *Chicago Times*, for which journal he was Indian War Correspondent at the time of the massacre of Gen. Custer, was the first amateur to use a Novelty Press for printing an amateur publication. At that time he published *Our Boy's Intellect*, at Winora, Ills,

Among the papers that appeared this year were *Merry Moments*, *Yankee Pedlar*, *Loyal Union*, *Young Minnesotian*, *Patriot*, *True Blue*, *Ranger*, *Star*, *Our Venture*, *Enterprize*, *Dew Drop*, *Boys' Gazette* and *Red, White and Blue.*

Merry Moments obtained quite a subscription list by extensive advertising, and it was at first successful, but did not pay in the end, expiring with the eight issue.

Thirteen numbers of the *Yankee Pedlar* were issued by its proprietor, E. A. Frye, of Norwalk, Conn., who did the type setting and printing himself, aside from his business duties.

The *Loyal Union* commenced publication in August, enlarging to twelve columns with its third number, and to twenty-four columns with its January, 1870 issue. The *Boys'*

Miscellany was consolidated with it with the February number, and with the April issue it enlarged to double its former size; its publishers bought "Alert's" *Young Sportsman*, together with the *Excelsior* and changed the title to the *Young Sportsman*, under which name it was published until the following August, when it was merged into *Merry's Museum*, a juvenile magazine published at Boston. The *Young Sportsman* was revived in 1872 by its former editor, Wm. L. Terhune, and issued for a few months at Portsmouth, N. H. Terhune occupied the position as the most prominent and celebrated amateur of his day and he has been termed "The Nestor of Amateur Journalism."

Two amateur books were issued during this year, entitled "Life Among the Lions, or how Mr. Boggs was Scared," and "Buck Bradford's Journal." Both were printed on Novelty presses. The first mentioned was illustrated with fifteen humorous engravings and was published by King & Abbott, Boston. The latter was published by F. A. Sterne, Williamsburg, L. I.

In the summer of this year, the advisability of calling together the amateur journalists of the country was first discussed. They had become familiar with each other through the medium of their papers, their tastes and in-

clinations were the same, and it was therefore thought that their interests would be better developed, their friendship strengthened, by some association which would bring them into still further intimacy.

Among the printers of the country an organization had already been formed in June, having for its object "mutual improvement, especially in the art of printing, and a more intimate acquaintance among its members," but Wm. Howe Downes was the first person who conceived the idea of gathering together in convention array, the amateur editors of the country. After some correspondence, a meeting was called for the 18th of September, at the residence of Chas. Scribner, of the publishing firm, in New York. Mr. J. B. Scribner was chosen chairman and Wm. L. Terhune, secretary. After some discussion it was decided that the meeting resolve itself into and be known as the

AMATEUR PRINTERS' ASSOCIATION,

and with this title, the first organized body of amateur journalists descends to posterity.

Amateur Journalism was now fast gaining popularity and in

1870

its progress was marked. Older people began to take an interest in the amateur aspirants and encouraged them by patronizing

their papers. At this period some books made their appearance, the "American Joker," "Mate of the Maggie May," and "Oreveta" being among the number.

During the early part of the year, the following papers appeared: *Jersey Blue*, *Boys' Telegraph*, *Whacker*, *Boy of the Period*, *Boys' Advertiser*, *National Eagle*, *Our Jersey Friend*, *Phi-Rhonian*, *Our Mutual Friend*, *Our Banner*, *Olio*, *Novelty*, and *Young Enterprise.*

In July of this year the initial number of the *Philadelphia Monthly* appeared. It was issued until the Spring of 1870, when its name was changed to the *American Boys' Magazine*, which survived but a short time. This journal was one of the finest of its age.

In August a little four page paper called *Our Boys* appeared. It did not suspend until 1873, and at one time was an illustrated journal of sixteen pages, almost as large as *Harper's Weekly.* It was revived in 1874 by parties in Toledo, Ohio, who issued it occasionally until 1878, and finally sold it to some Nebraska amateurs, who let it die a miserable and disgraceful death.

Probably the most ambitious of the papers issued in this year was the *Young Sportsman*, published by Edwin A. Farrell, "Alert," who, in his short career in the ranks, won a

most honorable reputation for ability. He died January, 11th, 1871, while he was still an active amateur journalist.

The result of the first gathering of amateur journalists, in the previous year, small though it had been, was a marked increase in the interest displayed towards every branch of amateur journalism. The publicity everywhere given the affair; the enthusiastic tones in which those who were present referred to the pleasant times they had had—the permanent bonds of friendship they had formed—all these served to bring many into the ranks. The printing press became common; and metaphorically speaking, the noise of the clicking types sounded through the length and breadth of the land.

The call for a second convention, to be held in Newark, N. J., on the second of March, 1870, excited a wide-spread interest, and notwithstanding a deep sectional feeling in the West, which has always antagonized itself with the East, it was confidently expected that the gathering would be general. This hope was disappointed, the West being slimly represented; the convention, however, was a success, and good-fellowship prevailed. W. L. Terhune was elected President, and Geo. W. Hills, Secretary. At this convention the name was changed to AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION.

The third convention was held in Boston, July 7th, at the St. James Hotel, 26 being present. W. L. Terhune was again elected to the presidency, Edwin A. Farwell, vice president, Geo. W. Hills, secretary, and Chas. H. Fowle, "That Fowle," treasurer.

During this year Amateur Journalism stood upon a firm foundation and sure footing; was deeply rooted and a means of much good amongst the youth of America, but at the beginning of

1871

it seems as if it was upon the decline. Late in the spring however, it became more vigorous, and apparently recovered all lost ground.

The amateur editors of the west early expressed dissatisfaction at the very strange policy which induced the association to call its conventions at places only accessible to Eastern members. It was true, as Eastern editors took care to point out, that the papers of the latter section were in the preponderance, both as regards number and ability; while in typographical appearance they ranked far ahead of their Western cotemporaries. However this was but a poor excuse to those who ever took a deep interest in the affairs of amateur journalism, and who would gladly have attended the conventions had

not distance and the consequence expense prevented them.

There was but one resource left and that, the formation of a separate association. Accordingly as early as 1870, a call was issued for a meeting of the amateurs of the Western and Southern States to be held at Cincinnati, July 28th of that year. The result was the gathering together of six amateur journalists ! This was a bitter pill to Western amateurs.

While popular interest seemed to droop during the early part of 1871, many editors became disheartened and either suspended publication or issued their little papers at irregular intervals. The older amateurs became weary of the labor, or else were too engrossed with business matters to bestow any attention to outside affairs. Pens that once enlivened the pages of our journals now flourished on the less interesting, but far more remunerative pages of the day book journal and ledger.

It is true that many still clung to the apparently sinking ship. The interest of a few like Demarest, Downes, Dennis, McColm, Morrill and Fowle, was ever evinced in a ready disposition to further the aims and objects of the amateur world by every possible means. Despite all efforts that could be made, however, the fourth convention of

the Amateur Press Association at Buffalo, January 18th, 1871, was but slimly attended. And even the excitement of the convention seemed to be productive of but little good.

E. H. Hutchinson was elected president, Chas. McColm 1st vice president, Wm. Howe Downes, 2nd vice president, J. F. Osgood, secretary, and Geo. B. Smith, treasurer.

A committee was appointed to investigate the causes leading to the prostration of amateur journalism and to remedy them as much as possible, and were instructed to report at the next convention, to be held at Pittsburgh, July 12th. But the day arrived and with it no crush of hungry, excited amateur editors. The convention was even smaller than the preceding ones, but what it lacked in numbers it made up in enthusiam. The name of the association was again changed to that of the

National Amateur Press Association.

The Misses Lukens, of Brenton, Pa., publishers of *Little Things* were present. They too, like Miss Nellie Williams, whom we mentioned a few pages before, did their own type-setting.

This convention rejected the plan of dividing the association into Eastern and Western departments, and the meetings were ordered to be held annually thereafter, which latter

step it was thought would secure a greater interest than would the spliting of the association into branches. These measures were unpopular and caused great discontent, however. The best papers of that date were *Our Boys*, *American Youth*, *Comet*, *Cub*, *Cornucopia* and *Young Messenger*.

1872

During the year 1872, some splendid journals were in existence, *Our Boys*, *Boys' Herald*, *Punch and Judy*, *Cornucopia*, *Our Yankee Land*, *Our Flag* and *Leisure Moments* being of this class. The great Chicago fire effected the amateurs of that city some; but they were plucky, all the papers but one continuing publication. The first number of *Our Boys* issued after the fire, was printed in Toledo, Ohio.

During the previous year, the amateurs of Eastern States, noticing the general dissatisfaction existing in the West at the mode of conducting the National Amateur Press Association, and also the attempt made there to establish a rival to the National Association, made preparations for the organization of an association for the furtherance of amateur interests in the East, to be known as the Eastern Amateur Press Association. Careful arrangements were made and on the 27th of January, 1872, the Eastern A. P. A. was or-

ganized in New York, at the St. Nicholas Hotel. C. H. Fowle was elected to the presidency, Wm. Furber Miller, vice-president, and Will S. Hillyer, secretary.

The amateurs of the West, animated by a spirit of rivalry, organized the Western A. P. A. at Chicago, in May; associations were now on the *tapis;* the amateurs seemed to have a mania for them, the Baltimore, Bay State, California, Granite State, Jersey Blue, Kentucky, New York, Pittsburgh, and Southern Associations all being organized.

The sixth convention of the National Amateur Press Association was held at the Continental Hotel in Philadelphia, Pa. This was the grandest convention yet held by amateurs. Seventy-six members were present, many of whom came hundreds of miles in order to attend the convention, and they all avowed that it amply repaid them for their trouble. Vice president Chas. McColm, in the absence of the president, opened the meeting. Wm. Howe Downes was elected president, John A. Fox, vice president, John Harper, secretary, and W. F. Miller, treasurer. The convention was very turbulent and unruly, and the jealousy between the Eastern and Western delegates quite marked.

The Eastern A. P. A. held its second con-

vention immediately after the National's adjournment and in the same room used by the latter. Before proceeding to business it was necessary to request the withdrawal from the room of many Western members of the National, who were present as guests, on account of the attempts made by them to cast the convention into the same disorder as had previously characterized the National's meeting. Thus did the predecessors of the amateurs of to-day, manifest the same rivalry and jealousy, as do their successors in the field of amateur journalism.

Will. S. Hillyer was elected president of the Eastern A. P. A., and C. H. Fowle vice president. It was at this convention that Richard Gerner first presented his since celebrated "Congress Scheme," which was then, as it was five years afterwards, laid upon the table and finally ignored.

During the time intervening between the next convention of the Eastern A. P. A., Gerner's Congress Scheme found many admirers who advocated its adoption. This scheme, as explained by Gerner, in his motion for its acceptance, was, in brief, as follows: The formation of a National Assembly of Amateur Journalists, to which delegates were to be elected, not chosen, by the Associations in the United States, these dele-

gates to meet in convention annually at some central city, there to elect a president, who would act as president and chief of all the associations; in short, with comparatively the same power as that of the president of the United States.

Many amateurs deemed the scheme impracticable and its adoption was plainly to be made an issue at the ensuing Eastern A. P. A's convention.

On the 27th of January,

1873

the third convention of the Eastern A. P. A. was called to order in the Warwick House, in Boston, Mass. Owing to the ridiculous reports concerning the small-pox, which had been circulated, there was but twenty-five present. Wm. Furber Miller, whose pen has even within the last few months found time to employ itself in behalf of Amateur Journalism, was elected president.

Upon the broachment of the Congress Scheme, a spirited debate ensued, but it was finally carried. Before a second motion could be made to specify its duties, the convention abruptly adjourned.

The most prominent papers of this year were *Corn City's Compliments*, *Camden Spy*, *Boys' Herald*, *Literary Album*, *North Star*, *Our Enterprise*, *Index*, *Welcome*

Guest, *Our Gem*, *Lakeside Monthly*, *Pacific Monthly* and *Our Boys*.

I must not pass over this year without mentioning the *Daily Despatch*, a minature journal, which, as its name indicates, was issued daily. Its publisher, J. P. Etheridge, issued fourteen numbers, and was encouraged by the residents of Coldwater, Mich., where it was published.

In the Spring of this year, the New York Amateur Press Association, resolved to have Amateur Journalism

REPRESENTED AT VIENNA, AUSTRIA,

at the World's Exhibition, and made preparations for sending four amateurs there for the purpose of issuing a small journal as an exponent of American Amateur Journalism. A printing press, type, etc., were procured, and W. N. Stewart, Wm. Howe Downes, Wm. Furber Miller and I. Jaroslawski undertook the trip. The boys were received with a sort of suspicion by the authorities, and each number of their little paper, *The American Youth*, was very closely inspected before they were allowed to be distributed. But when, regardless of all obstacles, the *Youth*, in eight page, sixteen column form, made its appearance regularly every Saturaday, until the close of the Exhibition, it attracted the attention of Americans, as well

as that of the royalty and nobility of the old world, and this exemplification of American progress was praised by Journalists from San Francisco to Athens, who were lavish in their encomiums upon the pluck of the American boys, who were certainly deserving of all the praise they received.

The seventh meeting of the National Amateur Press Association was held at the Sherwood House, Chicago, on July 9th, 1873, with a large attendance. Chas. S. Diehl was elected president and E. A. Henderson, vice president; Geo. W. Harn, the pioneer amateur of Ohio received the second vice presidency.

The Louisville, Philadelphia Branch of Eastern, Empire State, New Orleans, and United States Reform Associations were formed during this year.

Some excellent new publications were started in

1874

viz.: *Brilliant*, *Idler*, *Our Valley Friend*, *Boy of To-Day* and *Empire Herald.*

The first annual Fair of the United States Amateur Exhibition was held at Bath, N. Y., May 1st, and premiums to the amount of $10 were awarded. *Now and Then* of Chattanooga, Tenn., was awarded the prize for being the best amateur paper represented;

"Salt Point" for best puzzle department and "Kork" for the best batch of puzzles. There is no doubt but that the recipients of these prizes justly deserved them, but, nevertheless, some editors, jealous of their cotemporaries good fortune, made a great fuss, charged the managers of the Exhibition with partiality, corruption, etc. This created quite a sensation, certain papers denouncing the Exhibition, while others upheld it.

Several Associations held conventions this year, but the National and Eastern became extinct. The Western A. P. A. held its fourth annual convention at Detroit, in July, 1874. At the Western convention, the Michigan A. P. A. was organized. The plan of organizing an Amateur Congress, to be composed of delegates from the several associations, something similar to Gerner's Congress Scheme, here took form. For each five members an Association was allowed one delegate to the Congress. Upon election, the following officers were chosen: Chas. McColm, president, James E. Pilcher, secretary, Geo M. Huss, treasurer. But few members of the Eastern A. P. A., whose sixth convention was to have been held at Boston, August 13th, 1874, being present, no meeting was held, and consequently the Association died an easy death. On the same day that

the Eastern's convention was to have been held, the New England and Massachusetts A. P. A's convened in Boston, and if they had shown a proper interest in the fate of the Eastern, it need not have fizzled out so miserably.

An Amateur Exposition was held at Leroy, N. Y., October 15th, at which the *Idler* received a prize as being the best printed, and the *Boys' Herald* a prize as the best edited amateur paper.

During this year a case of vindictive vituperation occured among the amateurs of San Francisco, local jealousy being the cause. Some of the young editors there got into a furious quarrel; scandalous and sarcastic little sheets were published and the war of words waxed so warm, that one of the youths caused the arrest of three of his cotemporaries on a criminal charge of libel. During the "Western War," as this ridiculous comedy was called, the *Olive Branch*, edited by young ladies, appeared. True to its name, peace was counseled, but in vain.

1875

was marked by general prosperity in amateur circles. With the beginning of the year many new papers were started; in fact, it has always been noticable that more journals are usually started in January, than in any other month during the year.

The *Amateur Aspirant*, *Boys' Herald*, *Our Boys*, *Empire Herald*, *Brilliant* and *New England Star* were yet published, while the *Imp*, *Youthful Enterprise*, *Amateur Reporter* and scores of handsome, intelligent sheets made their appearance.

At the first and only meeting of the American Amateur Editors' Association, held Feb. 2nd, 1875, at Walcott, N. Y., a prize was awarded the *Boys' Herald* as the best amateur paper then published. The next meeting was to have been in conjuction with the convention of the Empire State A. P. A., at Cooperstown, N. Y., but it was never held.

Will. A. Innes, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, this year published a Directory of Amateur Journalism, that is probably the largest volume ever issued by an amateur journalist.

During the early part of the year, on June 26th, in response to a call signed by many prominent amateurs, there assembled at the parlors of the St. Nicholas Hotel, New York City, forty-eight amateur journalists for the purpose of completing and organizing plans for the publication of an amateur journal on the grounds of the Centennial Exhibition, to be held in Philadelphia in July of the following year. The attention of the Amateur fraternity had previously been called to the feasiability of such a representation, and many

amateur editors, inspired by the success of the publication of *The American Youth* at Vienna, advocated the advancement of such a scheme of representation at our own country's great exhibition.

This meeting was organized into the Amateur Journalist's Centennial Association, W. F. Miller, president. Nearly $300 was subscribed by the amateurs present to defray preliminary expenses, and arrangements were completed, whereby it was thought $5000 could be raised, which sum was considered enough to secure a creditable representation. Speeches were made by ex-Gov. Bigler of Pennsylvania, and by Horatio Alger, Jr., who both favored the plan and highly commended it. Great efforts were make to secure space in the Exposition building, but Director General Goshorn would not grant it. He could not comprehend the word "amateur." It savored of infancy to his mind, and he refused to allow the paper to be printed on the ground. This, of course, spoiled the plan and caused many a flow of rather invective rhetoric, aimed at the stupidity of the Centennial Commissioners. However, all hope was not abandoned as to final success in securing representation, and the subject was argued through the columns of the amateur journals all during the year,

and even until just before the opening of the Exhibition in

1876

when it was finally abandoned. Still, Amateur Journalism was not entirely without representation at the great Centennial Exhibition. Geo. P. Rowell & Co., the well known advertising agents, accorded amateur journals a space in their exhibit of American newspapers and periodicals, and Frank Leslie also placed them in his exhibit, where they attracted a great deal of attention and remark.

With the beginning of 1876, Amateur Journalism received the impetus of a boom that lasted for over two years. Many new papers commenced publication; a higher order of literature seemed to be aimed at and the fraternity apparently gathered influence and extended its power with every day. In this year seemed to commence the reign of the second generation, or rather it was the halting place between the resignation of the old amateurs and the grasp of power by the new. The older amateurs, who had been at the head of Amateur Journalism for years, gradually retired into oblivion, while the new generation did not yet manifest who were to be accepted as their leaders and representatives. The career of John Edson

Briggs, of the *Imp*, Wm. T. Hall of the *Western Amateur*, Arthur J. Huss, of the *Buckeye Boy*, subsequently the *Stylus*, Geo. W. Hancock of the *Club* began, as also did those of others, who were destined to occupy the most exalted positions in the gift of the fraternity.

During the winter of '75-'76, many new press associations were formed and the boys seemed to vie with each other in activity. The Southern amateurs, in particular, endeavored to make their section equal to the Eastern and Western by the push they gave to amateur affairs. The South, however, has never yet been able to successfully rival the West and East in the field of Amateurdom, although in this year they came nearer doing so than before or since.

Among the best papers of 1876 were *Our Boys*, *Boys' Herald*, *New England Star*, *Crucible*, *Youthful Enterprise*, *Omaha Excelsior*, *Boys' Journal*, (Alexandria, Va.), *Northern Amateur*, *Rambler*, *Our Free Lance* and others.

The *Youthful Enterprise* was a large amateur paper, published in eight and twelve page form by Miss Libbie Adams, of Elmira, N. Y., who did the type-setting, as well as editing of her journal. Miss Adams was a young lady of great ability, and won an en-

viable reputation as a writer, under the *nom de plume* of "Nettie Sparkle."

At intervals there have been attempts at publishing "papers" upon postal cards, not from motives of economy, but from a restless desire for novelty. Nearly every year, some dissatisfied youth, animated by a longing for fame, issues one of these unique exponents of Journalism. The *Little Critic* was the representative of this class in '75 and '76.

As the existence of Amateur Journalism grew older, radical changes were made in many respects, from the previous mode of conducting its representatives. Sensational literature, of the "blood and thunder," class had been predominant during Amateurdom's early years, although condemned by many writers, and it was not until this year that there seemed to be anything like a general and concentrated opposition to it, and desire for "pure literature." Yet, despite the opposition of the ablest journals and writers of the day, sensational literature remained in favor among a large class of journals for some time—in fact, it was not until 1878 that pure literature attained predominancy. In consequence, while the amateur papers of '76 were more numerous, those of after years excelled in quality of contents.

During this year, Washington, D. C., Chi-

cago, St. Louis and several other cities were "deluged" with amateur papers, Chicago at one time sending out forty-two amateur publications in one month, while other cities closely competed with her for the title of the "Banner City of Amateurdom." In these headcenters, as a matter of course, amateur affairs were exceedingly lively and the rivalries, controversies and quarrels which originated at these points, were a scource of scandal to the whole fraternity.

The July issues of some twenty or thirty amateur papers of this year made their appearance in colors—red and blue—to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independance. The *Amateur Times* of New York, and the *Omaha Excelsior* of Nebraska, were especially noticeable by the handsome Fourth of July editions they issued.

The confidence with which amateur journalists were wont to entertain in each other's integrity, and the opportunities, which were, in consequence, presented for swindling, had of late been abused so frequently, that departments were started in amateur papers, for the special purpose of exposing the sharks that played upon the simplicity of amateur journalists. Occasionally an amateur "fell from grace," and the fraternity has

had its "black sheep," who retired from its ranks, to the more uncongenial enclosure of a penitentiary. Some of these young men were previously of the best standing, and their fall created a great sensation in the ranks. As this little book, however, is liable to exist for many years, and as I know that many of these former criminals have sincerely repented and reformed, I will make no mention of their names, as I do not not wish this work to be an everlasting reproach and cause of disgrace to them.

At this time and since, the amateur fraternity began to hear of the marriages of many of its former members, the boys of '70 and 71 having grown to manhood's estate. Nothing can be more hearty than the congratulations usually given an amateur benedict, and the marriage of one of their number is trumpeted by the fraternity from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Sincere regret is shown upon the death of brother amateurs and the tokens of sorrow, respect and esteem are lavishly given. During 1876, Harry S. Barler, an amateur journalist possessed of great talent, and who had won a place in the first rank of amateur authors, died at his home in Alton, Illinois.

The amateur books issued in 1876 were more numerous than ever before, but the

standard of excellence was not kept up, the majority of such efforts being of insignificant size and quality. Some few of the "books" published, however, were of superior quality, among which I can mention "A City Lay," "Bunkum County Ballads," and "Queer Life of Tommy Tubbs."

In December, 1875, the editor of the *Gazette*, of Portland, Maine, suggested that, since a large number of amateur journalists would probably attend the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, in '76, that they time their visit so as to meet together on a certain day and organize an association. This idea was received with general favor, and during the Spring of '76, the amateurs of Philadelphia began making preparations for holding a convention.

Upon July 4, sixty-five amateur journalists, many of whom were of the most prominent in the fraternity, met in convention at Institute Hall, Philadelphia, and there the second and now existing

NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION.

was formed amidst the greatest enthusiam. Upon ballot, John Winslow Snyder, of Richmond, Va., was elected president. This gentleman was the most popular amateur of the day, and was a prolific and valued contributor to the Amateur Press, under the *nom de*

plume of "Winslow." His principal opponent for the office was Richard Gerner, who was just as well known, but the representative of a different style, "Winslow" being the champion of "pure literature," while "Humpty Dumpty," as Gerner was known, was celebrated for his sensational productions.

Gerner was elected vice president, Wm. T. Hall, of Chicago, secretary, and J. A. Fynes, of Boston, treasurer. Long Branch, N. J., was selected as the next place of meeting; after making all preparations for placing the association upon a sound and firm footing, the convention adjourned. Its successful organization was hailed by the fraternity with exclamations of applause.

1877

The year 1877 opened out upon the Amateur World under the most favorable auspices. Many new papers were started in January, some to immediately suspend, while others enjoyed a long and prosperous career. Much improvement was manifested and every one seemed as if they wished to begin the year with all possible *eclat.*

At the early part of the year the amateur papers in existence were more numerous than at its close. In April the greatest number were published, and from that time they

kept gradually decreasing. During the year the plan of representation of Amateur Journalism at Paris in 1878 at the Worlds Fair to be held there, was argued by many amateur editors, who, not disheartened by the failure of representation at Philadelphia the year before, were desirous of emulating their illustrious predecessors who had achieved such notable triumphs of boyish pluck at the Vienna Exhibition in 1873. "Paris Representation" formed the headlines of many an editorial article, but the opposers of the scheme were too powerful and killed it in its infancy.

A well known amateur author in Brooklyn named Maurice W. Benjamin, "Feramorz," played a practical joke upon another, named John W. Snyder, (the famous Winslow) of Richmond, Va., by coming out in a letter published in the *Hoosier Boy*, in which he asserted he had detected Snyder in a plagiarism; of course Snyder indignantly denied the charge, and the amateur press generally expressed their belief in his innocence. After considerable discussion had been wasted as to the merits of the case, Benjamin finally acknowledged that the accusation was only a practical joke. It was justly termed a very foolish one by the amateur fraternity and Benjamin received merited censure.

With the death of the old National Amateur

Press Association in 1874, and with the oblivion which seemed to have fallen upon all the principal associations of the States, all the excitement attending upon large conventions had died out, and to the new generation of amateurs was unknown, but in 1877 a new era dawned upon Amateurdom in this respect. The formation of the new National Association at Philadelphia in July of the previous year, had been entirely without any political contest for the honors and the association's existence after the convention had been almost unnoticed. But in the spring of this year, upon the hoisting of different tickets of candidates for honors in the association, brought forth by the determined and strenuous efforts upon the part of Richard Gerner, who had been the opposition candidate to Snyder, at the first convention, and his friends in his behalf, a campaign was inaugurated which waged fiercely until the second convention at Long Branch, July 17th. Gerner advocated his own election by letters and publications, and virtually demanded his elevation to the presidency of the National Amateur Press Association, on the ground of his being the only competent person to carry out the doctrines of the famous Congress Scheme, which was expected to be carried at the coming convention; but he

was strongly and bitterly opposed, and so much was he disliked, that the partizans of other candidates united their support upon one man, Alex. W. Dingwall, of Milwaukee, Wis., so as to be better able to successfully defeat the ambitious Hoboken youth.

Between eighty and one hundred amateurs assembled at the second convention of the National Association, and Gerner was defeated by Dingwall upon the first ballot, by a vote of 38 to 37. This killed Gerner's political ambition and in disgust he finally retired from the fraternity. John W. Snyder, the retiring president, was elected vice president, J. A. Fynes, secretary, W. T. Hall, treasurer, and C. C. Chase official editor. The *Boys' Herald* was elected official organ.

Gerner's Congress Scheme was contemptuously laid upon the table, and thus was again allowed to sink into obscurity. The Association, by unanimous vote, denounced several New York boys' professional papers, as publishing matter pernicious to American Youth, and for this were praised from one end of the country to the other. After a most enjoyable and enthusiastic convention, the association adjourned to meet in Chicago the following July.

The Western amateurs had manifested a great deal of dissatisfaction at the choice of

Long Branch for the second meeting of the National Association, arguing that it should have been held much further west, and many of them paid but little attention to the proceedings of the National, busying themselves with organizing a Western association, to which they gave their attention. The Western A. P. A. was organized at Omaha, Neb., in January, with a small attendance. Wm. T. Hall, of Chicago, was elected president and Chas. T. Bunce vice president. The second convention was held in Davenport, Iowa, in August. Previous to convening, a bitter campaign was fought by the partizans of C. C. Chase and W. W. Bartlett, both Omaha boys and candidates for the presidency, which resulted in Chase's election to the position.

Many local Press Associations were organized during the year, nearly every State and large city boasting of one.

Among the well known papers published at this time, were the *Idle Hour*, *Club*, *Miscellany*, *Newsletter*. *Literary Galaxy*, *Our Free Lance*, *Knight Errant*, etc. *Our Free Lance* of New York City, enlarged to eight pages, thirty-two columns, each page about 10x14 inches, making it the largest amateur journal published, and by all odds the best. The *Literary World* of Philadelphia, was

the best magazine issued. A number of magazines were published this year. This form of publication has never been popular among amateurs, for the reason, perhaps, that one of creditable size would necessarily entail much more work than the average amateur paper.

Amateur dailies can never be expected to be made successes, hence their publication is but rare, and even then but for novelty and with no expectation of long life. During '77 we can mention the ephemeral existence of a few representatives of this phase of Amateur Journalism, Pittsburgh, Pa., LaFayette, Ind., and Medford, Mass., all boasting the possession of one. The Medford daily had the longest life—thirty days!

Some very fine amateur books were published this year, volumes which did their authors and publishers great credit. The most notable are "Yarns from the Night Owl's Chronicles," "Trance or Death," "Fatal Feud," "Universal History of Amateurdom," "Irving Club among the White Hills," "Romance of Castle Rock," and "Amateur Pearls."

The "second generation" of amateurs, which I spoke of before, now began to push its leaders into notoriety, and to gradually occupy positions of prominence. The few remaining amateurs in the ranks, of the first

generation, fought hard against the ambition of the more youthful aspirants, but the "fossils," as the old timers were called, were pushed aside and in

1878

were almost entirely driven to. the wall. Comparatively strange names were hailed by the fraternity with exclamations of applause; the leading authors and editors were nearly all of the new generation, In the campaign for the honors of the National A. P. A., which opened early in the winter, the leading spirits of the new generation rallied around Jos. P. Clossey and Wm. T. Hall as exponents of their class, while Correl Kendall of Boston, Mass., was the candidate of the "Fossils." The campaign was hotly contested. On July 16th, the National A P. A. met at the club rooms of the Palmer House in Chicago, with an attendance of 101, the largest number ever convened together at an amateur convention. Good-natured disorder could not be prevented, but the convention was undoubtedly a great success. A new and elaborate, though as afterwards found. defective and impracticable Constitution was adopted. By virtue of the attendance of a preponderance of Chicago and Illinois amateurs, Wm. T. Hall was elected President and Arthur J. Huss vice president of the Associa

tion and "fossilism" as a political power was dead.

The Western A. P. A, met on Tuesday, July 16, at the same place used by the Western Association. The campaign which closed at this meeting had been between the partizans of Wyndham A. Morris of Iowa, and Thos. G. Harrison of Indiana, and had been as fiercely fought among Western boys as that of the National A. P. A., itself. The ballot for the Presidency resulted in the election of Harrison by a majority of one vote. The Editors' Lyceum, an association whose members were only those who edited amateur journals, as the name implies, was organized at Chicago this week, with a membership of twenty-eight. This Association was organized for the express purpose of preventing early electioneering and exerted a powerful influence for some time. The Critics' League, "for the purpose of obtaining a compilation of impartial criticism upon worthy topics," was also founded this year but it never amounted to much. During the early part of the year Amateur Journalism had been more prosperous than ever before; more and better papers were issued, and greater ability and activity shown by the publishers than at any other time previous in the history of Amateurdom But late in the

Spring, Amateur Journalism received a blow which had well nigh been deadly and under the influence of which it is yet staggering. This was in the form of a Post Office regulation, the influence of which was the enforcement of the payment of one cent in postage upon every copy of an amateur journal mailed, unless certain rules and forms were complied with, which were destructive to the prosperity and extension of Amateur Journalism.

Previous to this time, postal laws had been peculiarly accomodating and inducive to the growth and spread of Amateurdom. At one time, any regularly published periodical was sent through the mails free of all charge and just previous to the enforcement of this "obnoxious postal law," amateur journals were mailed for three cents per pound, this rate thus forming the lowest item of expense essential to the publication of a paper. But the new law increased the expense of publication very heavily, in many cases forming the greatest item in the sum total, figured up by amateur editors in their expenditures.

Amateur Journalism resounded with a cry of dismay. Terror stricken youths predicted the immediate dissolution of the fraternity. But a few sober-minded boys commenced examining into the true meaning of the new

law and soon discovered and announced that upon compliance with certain forms, the old rates could still be obtained by the fraternity. In many cases these regulations were complied with and the publication of numerous papers went on as before, but a large number of journals were debarred from "pound rates" of postage, by the post-office ruling and were compelled to either suspend publication or submit to the taxation of one cent upon each and every copy of their minature sheets which they mailed, as compliance with the law by them, would result in a radical and changed form, both of contents and typographical appearance, alike destructive to their interest and pocket-book.

So amateur journals fell like the leaves, and only those journals continued publication whose proprietors were able to evade the law or whose means were sufficient to pay the tax levied upon them. As time passed on, however, many who had at first left the fraternity, came back; means were found to issue papers which would come under the regulations, and Amateurdom assumed its wonted aspect.

But since the enforcement of this postal law in 1878, amateur papers have not been so numerous as they were before. Notwithstanding this fact, I believe I am correct in

saying that the law resulted in the benefit of Amateurdom It has driven from the ranks many little sheets that were not creditable to the fraternity and by the entailment of some little expense necessary for the publication of a journal, and the restrictions essential for passage through the mails at "pound rates," has caused a greater attention to be paid to the merits of the publications, themselves,

The papers published this year that attracted the most attention, were the *Stylus*, *Western Amateur*, *Eastern Star*, *Our Own Journal*, *Amateur*, *Boys' Gazette*, *Fireside Gem*, *Crisis*, *Aldine*, *Eastern Sunbeam*, and *Pierian*.

Of late, the idea of "Self-Culture," as being the watchword of Amateurdom, was more generally embraced by amateurs, and the result was the publication of a number of "all editorial" journals, the matter contained in them being, as their name indicates, entirely from the pens of their respective editors. Of these, the *Stylus*, edited by Arthur J. Huss, of Tiffin, Ohio, was the most popular and prominent. Huss' style of writing and even the make-up of his paper, was widely copied.

The merit and fame now accorded an amateur journal, depended upon the ability of

its editor and the quality of his productions. In former years, an amateur paper to be successful, need only publish fine literary contributions, and the editorial department was a feature that could be ignored without any loss of popularity, but under this new *regime* when every paper was considered as the criterion of its editor's ability and not the depth and fullness of his pocket-book, the class of matter published had a decided and radical change.

One rather unacceptable result of this revolution, lead to many amateurs confining their topics of writing within and about their own institution—Amateurdom—to the exclusion of thoughts upon subjects of more general interest, and while such journals published upon this plan were immensely popular among amateur associates, the critic, in examining the claims of minature journalism as leading to culture and education, was forced to condemn them as superficial and without depth.

Many amateur editors realized this and in consequence conducted their little sheets so as to more successfully meet the real object of the fraternity, hence their effusions were marked by a broader range of thought than had formerly been apparent. In their enthusiam, articles were published arguing upon

broad and debatable questions, which, I am sure, are now a scource of amusement and regret to their authors. "Religion," and the existence of a Hell, were made the subjects of a widely participated in debate and all the topics of the day received general attention.

During the first of the year, there occured a controversy between Alex. W. Dingwall and J. Winslow Snyder, President and Vice President, respectively, of the National A. P. A., in reference to personal matters that attracted considerable attention.

The New England and New Jersey Amateur Press Associations, both yet living, were organized this year, but during the latter part of the year Amateur Journalism was most apparently degenerating, more particularly in the number of papers issued, than in the quality of contents contained in them, and it was not until well into the Spring of

1879

that any decided increase could be noticed. There was quite a number of really good papers published this year, among which were the *Imp*, *Rounce*, *Index*, *Granite State Courier*, *Southern Star*, *Stylus*, *Satirist*, *Amateur Reformer*, *Independent Times*, *Fynes Fancy*, *Egyptian Star*, *Eastern Star*, *Aldine* and *Young American*, (weekly.)

The second generation was now in full power and might be said, metaphorically speaking, to be in its middle age. All the above journals were able criterions of amateur ability, and their columns for the year speak volumes for Young America.

During 1879 there were more amateur papers published by Press Associations, as their official organs, than ever before, quite a number of these sheets being issued. The *National Amateur*, organ of the National A. P. A. was the best of these journals.

It has always been a hard matter to induce young ladies to enter the ranks of Amateur-Journalism, the work apparently not being congenial, and in the sarcastic language of one journal of this date, "it is only occasionally a girl can be found who is sensible enough to forsake her mirror and fashion book long enough to pay some attention to Amateur Journalism." But it cannot be expected that young ladies can master or take a liking for the art of typography as their masculine cotemporaries do, and hence while they may wield the pen as contributors to, yet their appearance as publlshers of amateur journals can be but seldom expected. The year 1879, however, was graced by three or four journals published by girls, and several others held associate editorships upon

some of the best amateur papers of the day. Misses Virginia J. Stephens, Libbie Adams and Delle E. Knapp manifesting the most ability.

The most popular and prolific amateur authors of the year were, C. E. Stone, J. D. Miller, Chas. C. Heuman, C. J. Ficke, Max Lesser, A. J. Huss, James L. Elderdice, F. M. Morris and others.

The constitution adopted by the National Amateur Press Association the year before, provided for the awarding of the title of "Laureate" to the authors of the best essay, poem, sketch, serial, amateur history, etc., published during the year by amateur writers, and the "Laureate Contest," as it was called, was the cause of the production of many able effusions being entered in competition for the honorary titles, which superiority would command, and especially a revival of amateur poetic ability, as in this particular field the competitors were numerous and the poems of a high order of merit. Geo. M. Huss, author of "Music," published in the *Stylus*, won the title of poet-laureate, C. J. Ficke, that of sketchist-laureate, and J. A. Fynes, essayist-laureate.

The amateur books of 1879 were not numerous, and there were but few issued that deserve mention. "Parisian Sketches," by

Stanton S. Mills and "Amateur Observations" by T. G. Harrison, undoubtedly carried off the honors of the year.

It has been only at long intervals that Amateur Journalism has been embraced by youths of negro descent, but during this year Herbert A. Clarke, a colored boy of Cincinnati, published an amateur paper named *Le Bijou*, which manifested considerable ability. Clarke was well received by the fraternity in general, but upon his nomination for office in the National A. P. A. by some amateur residents of northern states, some southern amateurs took alarm and published illogical and condemnatory articles in reference to the measure, slanderous both of Clarke and his northern supporters; this caused what is called the "Civil Rights War," and was a topic of discussion and controversy for a long time, Clarke, however, being generally upheld, and the few southern amateurs who tried to drive him from the ranks were universally denounced.

As the fourth convention of the National A. P. A. was to be held in Washington, D. C. and it was supposed that the southern members would be in attendance in large numbers, Civil Rights was made an issue upon which candidates for office in the association were nominated. John Edson Briggs and

Arthur J. Huss, candidates for the presidency both upheld Civil Rights, while James A. Fynes, Jr., was placed in nomination for the same position as the champion of its opposers. Fynes, however, did not openly claim to be opposed to Civil Rights and gave but a silent acquiescence to the sentiments of his southern supporters.

The constitution of the National A. P. A., in order to give a general representation and allow all the Association's members a voice in each convention's proceedings, whether in attendance at the convention or not, provided for proxy voting, the proxies to be cast at the conventions of State Associations, which in accordance with other rules, were to be held before the first of June of each year. In consequence, nearly every State organized a press association and held conventions of the same to enable members of the National to cast their ballots for their favorite candidates.

The campaign for the honors of the National Association was a very bitter one this year and the different nominees for various offices were vilified and abused, sometimes with considerable acrimony and invective: the nominees for the presidency, Briggs, Fynes and Huss, especially being made the target of slander and vituperation. Briggs

received the support of the amateurs of Washington, D. C. (where the convention was to be held) and of New York, New Jersey and sister States; Fynes captured a large New England and Southern support, while Huss was the favorite of the West.

The convention convened July 17th, with but a small attendance. This was a surprise as it had been supposed that there would be more amateurs present than had been in attendance at the Chicago meeting. Through the ignorance of and non-conformation with the rules laid down for proxy-voting, but a very few of the proxies cast could be counted as legal and they were all thrown out. Briggs was elected president, his friends in Washington being too numerous for the out of town supporters of Fynes and Huss to overcome. Will. L. Wright, of Illinois, was elected vice-president, and C. C. Chase, of Omaha, Neb., was honored with a second term as official editor.

This convention was a very disorderly one and received universal condemnation from amateurs not in attendance. The rivalry between the leading candidates was participated in by their partizans, and some very disorderly and ungentlemanly scenes were enacted.

The campaigns of the Eastern and West-

ern A. P. A's were very quiet this year, the interest being centered in that of the National. F. M. Morris and G. W. Baildon were elected presidents of the Western and Eastern Associations, respectively, almost without opposition and C. E. Stone received the presidency of the New England Amateur Journalist's Association.

I now come to the year

1880

and the events will be remembered and have been participated in by many of the amateur journalists of the present day. At the opening of the year, Amateur Journalism was in a better condition than it had been since the beginning of the postal troubles, and was apparently regaining the ground lost in the two previous years, but after the conventions of July, but few papers were issued and a serious decline of interest was manifest.

Yet many able and brilliant papers were published this year, among which were the *Dial*, *Vanity Fair*, *Youths' Lyceum*, *Composing Stick*, *Young American*, *Iudex*, *Our Banner*, *Independent Times*, *Plaindealer*, *Tatler*, *Clipper*, *Connoisseur* and *Satirist.*

As in 1879, the books published by the fraternity were few and not noticable for merit. "Poesy's Offerings," "Laureate Articles of 1879" and "Amateurdom's Phases"

attracted the greatest attention and redeemed in some part, the inferior quality of book literature which was issued during this year.

"All editorial" journals were yet numerous and the amateurs who won the greatest fame and who stood highest in the estimation of their cotemporaries, were those who manifested the greatest editorial ability, and who made this feature the predominant one with their journals. Formerly, when the editorial department of an amateur journal was neglected, amateur authors and contributors won the greatest reputation and applause. As it was realized, however, that a journal was expected to be the exponent of its editor's abilities, and not so especially of its contributors', the amateur author dropped from his once high position; from occupying the most exalted and powerful positions in the ranks, they were reduced to a level with the rank and file.

Wm. F. Buckley, Carl C. Ficke, Joseph D. Miller and James L. Elderdice were the most prolific contributors of general literature to the Amateur Press at this date, and were fair representatives of the authors of the day. In consequence of the decline of the amateur authors' power, but little effort was made to secure the fame in that branch of Amateur Journalism, as was given "Winslow"

Farley, "St. Clair" and others of previous years, and many editors were unassuming contributors to other journals besides their own, whose articles rank among the amateur classics.

The National's Laureate Contest was widely participated in this year and the articles entered in competition were generally of unusual merit. Joseph D. Miller received the poet-laureateship.

The quarrels of the New Jersey amateurs, who had a split in their State association, excited general interest.

The New England A. J. A. and the Eastern A. P. A. met early in the year and elected Dennis A. Sullivan and Geo. W. Baildon to their respective presidencies. There was a contest for the honors of the New England Association, but the interest in the National's campaign was so absorbing, that the effect upon other Associations was deleterious and hurtful.

Detroit, Mich., carried off the honors of the year as the banner city of Amateurdom, having about a dozen different little journals published in its limits at one time. Of these the *Michigan Boy* and *Venture* were the best.

The *Venture* was edited by B. Benj. Pelham, a colored youth, who showed consider-

able literary ability in his minature publication. He, in company with Herbert A. Clarke, was the recipient of the tirades of some few amateurs who yet kept up the "Civil Rights War."

The campaign for the political honors of the National Association began early, as in the year before, but had not resolved itself into shape much before March. Will. L Wright, Thos. G. Harrison and Wm. F. Buckley were placed in nomination for the presidency. Their respective supporters fell rapidly in line and the campaign was probably the most heated of any preceding it.

A number of journals were issued for campaign purposes only and each principal nominee was attacked by his opponents with abuse, slander and vituperation.

Some amateurs of the East formed a scheme for capturing votes for Buckley and organized what they called the "Radical Party," each member of which was pledged to support the Party's candidate, who was to be selected by a majority vote between the members themselves. As the Party was under the manipulation of Buckley's supporters, but few amateurs joined it, all being suspicious of its fair dealing and objecting to what is called the "gag law." While Buckley was made the Party's choice, yet I can

hardly say that it was entirely fraudulent in principle; at all events, its influence was comparatively small and had no effect upon the final result of the campaign.

The fifth convention of the National A. P. A. was at Cincinnati, Ohio, July 14, 15 and 16. Forty amateurs were present, these, like in the year before, being much fewer than were expected. But what were present, by energetic, gentlemanly and business like conduct, effectually wiped out the disgrace of the Washington convention and won words of praise from the great daily journals of Cincinnati for the ability and untiring zeal they manifested in conducting the convention. A new and elaborate constitution was adopted, which was a model of its kind, and a great quantity of miscellaneous business was transacted; in fact, more work and less play was done than at any previous meeting.

The new constitution provided for the admission of Canadian amateurs into membership. Hitherto, none but resident amateurs of the United States could participate in its doings. The change was highly appreciated by the Canadian amateur journalists.

Thos. G. Harrison, of Indiana, was elected to the presidency, Thos. H. Parsons, of New York, received the vice presidency and Jos.

P. Clossey, of New York, the official editorship. Oswald L. Williams, of Virginia, was elected treasurer. Williams was taken sick while attending the convention, previous to election and had to be removed to his room in the Emery Hotel. While there, his illness grew serious—being typhoid fever—and he was taken to the Cincinnati Hospital and his parents telegraphed for. He rapidly grew worse and finally died on Sunday, July 18th. This was a very sad event and the amateur fraternity, especially those who had met him, mourned his loss and sympathised with the bereavement of his parents. Williams was the editor of the *Dial*, a handsome little journal, and was a boy of considerable promise.

The Western A. P. A.'s convention at Indianapolis, just previous to that of the National, was very poorly attended and beyond the election of officers, was without interest. Ben Newsome, editor of the *Young American* of Carbondale, Ills., was chosen president.

For some time after the conventions of July Amateur Journalism was on the decline and the opening of the year

1881

did not show any special improvement. The cry of degeneration has been so often raised, however, that amateur journalists felt no

alarm at the condition of affairs, as they realized that Amateur Journalism is perpetually degenerating, but just as often does it regenerate. At the close of the year it was greatly prospering and more papers were published than at any time in the previous two years.

In the early part of the year, the *Youths' Lyceum*, of St. Louis, was the best amateur paper in existence, in a literary point of view; later in the year, the *Nonpareil* of New York and the *Independent Times* of Newark N. J., were in the lead. Other noticable journals were the *Vigilant*, *Bay State Press*, *Bay State Brilliant*, *Our City Boys*, *Our Journal*, *Iowa Amateur*, *Graphic*, etc.

Of late years, at several times, there have been schemes placed on foot for the publication by an amateur stock company, of a journal, which, besides being a representative of Amateur Journalism and serve to introduce it to the public in its most favorable light, would also enter the lists as the champion of pure literature and oppose the flash papers of the East upon their own ground. Enthusiastic youths have argued the possibility of their successful publication, repeatedly, but upon active work being undertaken for the issuing of such a journal, after a few shares had been taken in the "companies," the plan

has always been unaccomplished. Amateur journalists are not capitalists, the majority of them being youths of small pecuniary means and whose pocket money is nearly all eaten up by the expense of publishing their own individual journals, and while they would gladly welcome the appearance of such a paper as I mention, it can not be expected that their assistance will go much further than in good words. It may be that some future generation will be enabled to launch and successfully establish a publication of this class, but I doubt it.

John J. Weissert, of Pittsburgh, Pa., publisher of the *Vigilant*, made preparations for issuing his journal weekly, in a large form, and circulate through the American News Agency a large edition, and was extensively advertised as so intending, but his plans have as yet failed to mature and will probably be dropped through lack of adequate support.

In the middle of the year, the editor of the *Independent Times* proposed a plan for the publication of a journal to be called the *Leisure Moments*, and one which would introduce the existence of Amateur Journalism to the world at large. The size was to be eight pages, containing various departments, and good reading matter. The paper was to be run upon a share basis, consisting of

1000 shares at the rate of $5.00 a share. The plan failed, however, less than one-half the number of shares being taken.

Few amateur books were issued in 1881, although several "Annals of Amateur Journalism" have been advertised as being in press. "Jack's Mistake," by Hannah B. Gage, "Komikolleties," by Montague Tigg, and "Jim Skaggs of Skaggsville," by Lawrence Legif, were the best books of the year and they were really fine. Fewer books were issued this year than in any preceding.

Jas. L. Elderdice, Jos. D. Miller and a young lady who wrote under the *nom de plume* of "Rubina," were the favorite poets of the year, while Chas. S. Elgutter, Wm. F. Buckley, J. J. O'Connell, W. O. Wylie, S. S. Bartlett and C. J. Ficke were the most popular authors.

During the latter part of the year, several professional boys' papers of an elevated and clean tone, opened their columns to Amateur Journalism and devoted departments to its affairs. These had the effect of bringing many recruits into the ranks.

In the early part of the year, a practical joke-loving amateur started the report that Thos. G. Harrison, at that time president of the National A. P. A. had died, and in consequence, papers from all over the country

published flattering encomiums and obituaries of the "lamented dead," and mailed to his parents. Professional journals also published the report, and relatives and friends of Harrison were much surprised and grieved and wrote letters of condolence and regret to his paternal and maternal ancestors. The fraternity soon found out the hoax and the perpetrator was roundly abused.

The National A. P. A. campaign was not very brisk this year. Frank N. Reeve was the only candidate in nomination for the presidency until within about three weeks before the convention, when Max A. Lesser, animated by personal jealousy, placed himself in the contest. Lesser was ignominously defeated at Buffalo, N. Y., July 18, when the sixth convention of the Association was held, and Reeve received the presidency. F. E. Day, of Iowa, was elected first vice president and Finlay A. Grant, of Nova Scotia, received the office of official editor.

Lesser, and a few of his friends, organized the International Amateur Author's Lyceum, at Buffalo, in antagonism to the National A. P. A., and in consequence of Lesser's defeat. Not being supported by the fraternity to any extent, it has virtually ceased to exist.

Several new Press Associations were organized this year, but the Eastern and West

ern both failed to hold conventions, the latter on account of the failure of the president to call a meeting.

The Laureateship Contest for the year, resulted in six poems, three essays and two sketches being placed in competition for the titles. James L. Elderdice received the poet-laureateship, C. S. Elgutter the essayist-laureateship and Wm. F. Buckley the sketchist-laureateship.

As I finish my history of Amateur Journalism in the United States, I cannot help but reflect upon what will be the future of this institution, and I am inclined to believe that it has many long years of life before it. Some day it may happen that the inventions of the age and the revolutions which time invariably brings, may do away with printing and typography for a more easy and rapid dissemination of news and literature, than that accorded by print, and in that case, Amateur Journalism as it now exists, will probably disappear, at least in its present form. But, while the typographical art remains unsuperceded as the disseminator of literature, I can not help but re-echo the language of "Winslow," the most popular and prolific amateur author ever in the ranks, as spoken by him in a speech before the Chicago convention of the National A. P. A., in

July, 1878: "A flame that perpetually renews itself, can never die!" Amateurdom represents a flame that is perpetually being renewed and the hope and promise of the land, *its youth*, are continually entering its ranks. In the language of "Rip Van Winkle," in his well known toast, I close by wishing it "may live long and prosper."

AMATEUR JOURNALISM IN CANADA.

While Amateur Journalism is distinctly an American *Institution*, yet amateur journals are, or have been published in nearly every English speaking country, and the time will probably come, when, as enlightenment and liberty advance, that Amateur Journalism, like Puck's girdle, will encircle the world.

The Canadian provinces, being American, and susceptible to the influences and customs of the United States, have, of late years, always had some minature journals within their borders, although the number published at any one time has never been large. Geo. Stewart, Jr., a boy of sixteen, has the honor of being the first amateur journalist in Canada. In June, 1865, he issued the initial number of the *Stamp Collector's Gazette*, which, as its name indicates, was devoted to the interests of philately. It was first of four pages, but meeting with success

enlarged first to eight and then to sixteen pages, and after a long and successful career was finally merged into *Stewart's Quarterly*.

The *Stamp Collector's Chronicle*, a quarterly, was next issued by W. H. Bruce, sometime in 1874. The *Chronicle* contained four pages, eight columns, but subsequently was enlarged to sixteen pages. Another philatelic journal, the *Stamp Advocate*, of Toronto, Ontario, followed close upon the first issue of the *Chronicle*. William Berry, an enterprising youth, was its editor. It consisted of six pages and was distributed free among stamp collectors. Published almost at the same time with above, was the *Schoolmate* which was issued in February, 1875. It was a large, four page sheet and was by far the finest Canadian amateur paper ever issued. At the end of six months it was enlarged to eight pages, twenty-four columns. After running a year the name was changed to the *Boy's Herald*. In 1876, the printing office of its publishers was destroyed by fire and after one or two issues more, the *Herald* suspended.

Every year since 1875, has seen the birth and subsequent death of a few Canadian amateur journals, none being particularly brilliant or noticable. Different press associations have been organized, the Nova Sco-

tian being probably the largest. Since the admission of Canadian amateurs into membership in the American National A. P. A., they have manifested more activity and at the time I write, there are between fifteen and twenty papers published in the Dominion, of which the *Young Nova Scotia* is the largest and best.

AMATEUR JOURNALISM IN ENGLAND,

It has only been of late years that the amateurs of the United States have been aware of papers similar to their own in other countries. Amateur Journalism has obtained a foothold in the United Kingdom and there have been quite a number of minature journals published in the "mother country." The amateur journals of England, however, are of a different order to those published in the United States, nearly all being *magazines* and with more approach to professional size and style than those of the States. The avowedly amateur magazines of England are divided into two classes, printed, and in manuscript. In size and quality, the former range from the small and badly printed one sheet brochure, to the large shilling magazine, executed in an admirable manner upon the finest toned paper. The manuscript ventures, as a rule, are uniform in size, consist-

ing of two or three hundred pages, bound together in a temporary manner, so as not to increase, in any considerable degree, their weight in postal transit. Their contents are varied. Serial and complete stories, essays, poetry, puzzles, jokes, reviews, water-color and pen and ink drawings, chess, draught, and philatelic departments are found in each number. A reasonable time for perusal is allowed to each subscriber or member of the club by which the journal is published, after which he must forward it by post to the person whose name succeeds his on the "Transmission List," which is found in each magazine.

The printed magazines publish the same class of matter as the manuscript journals, but neither pay the same attention to the editorial department that American amateur papers do.

The first purely literary magazine for which I can find any record, is the *Vaudeville*, which was commenced in 1870. Previous to that there had been magazines issued, but their circulation was exclusively private. The *Vaudeville* was begun in mss. form, but subsequently attained the dignity of print. The editor and printer, F. J. Stimson, was a resident of London and under his ble management it soon became famous

though numerous rivals, inspired by its success, sprang up. The printed series was inaugurated in September, 1871, by Messrs. Stimson and Skinsley, the latter gentleman acting as sub-editor. In its changed form, the *Vaudeville* had only a short career. It died early in the following year.

Amateur Journalism has not flourished in England like it has in the United States, never being over twenty or thirty publications issued at one time. The British youth is a slower going boy than his American cousin and does not assert himself as the latter does.

Of late years, publications from England find their way across the broad Atlantic to the sanctums of American amateur editors, and under the influence of the American press, the tone of its foreign cotemporaries, is gradually changing to be more similar to our own.

In Scotland and Ireland, Amateur Journalism also exists, but not so flourishingly as in England. From Ireland American amateur editors received the *Quarterly Echo*, in 1877 and 1878, a very handsome magazine. The first Irish amateur paper was the *Gem*, published by J. Gallaher, of Derry. The first Scottish amateur publication was the *Rocket*, issued by A. E. Southerland, of Edinburgh.

In the Hawaiian Islands, the boys of Punahow College, have at several times issued a little journal, the first being called the *Punahow Reporter*, a semi-monthly, whose first appearance was made on April 1st, 1872. It comprised four columns of sixty lines each and was printed on a "Lowe" press. Other journals have been issued in Hawaii, but they were in manuscript form. King Kalauka has been a subscriber to several American amateur periodicals.

I learn that Jacques le Fenea, a youth of Lyons, France, there started an amateur journal in April, 1873, called *La Clarione*, which flourished until January of the following year. It was printed by the editor, with the assistance of his brother, and its circulation was limited to friends of the family, who doubtless looked upon the youthful editor as a prodigy. Mss. magazines have been issued by pupils of some of the boarding schools of Paris and Marseilles, but these differ much from English mss. magazines and cannot be classed among amateur journals.

Gomez de Guicaro, a youth of sixteen, residing in the city of Maranhoe, Brazil, published a small weekly during the summer of 1873. The journal measured 6x10 and consisted of four pages, eight columns, and was printed by the editor at a professional print-

ing office. I find it was known as the *Voz de Brazil*, and had quite an extended circulation. It suspended publication with its seventh number, in October, 1873, owing to its editor leaving for Europe to complete his education.

On January 1st, 1874, there appeared an amateur monthly journal from the little town of Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was called *Les Juvenales*, and was edited by the son of the alcade, Antonia de L'Argolle, a smart youth of fifteen. This paper was also printed at a professional printer's. *Les Juvenales* remained in existence while L'Argollo's pocket money lasted, but it also met an untimely death, suspending publication with its fourth number. These are the only two amateur papers ever published in Brazil, of which I have any record.

Amateur journals may have been published in other countries, and doubtless have been, but I do not possess any further information upon the subject.

THE

Career and Reminiscences

OF AN

AMATEUR JOURNALIST.

CHAPTER I.—1875-'76.

In 1875 I was living in LaFayette, Ind., and although once or twice had seen copies of amateur papers, I had not realized the existence of Amateur Journalism, and took no interest in its publications. In September, 1875, one morning I received a letter from my friend, Will. R. Perrin, of Indianapolis, with whom I had been corresponding for some time upon boyish topics, and enclosed in his epistle he sent me number 1, volume 1, of the *Boy of To-Day*, a little four page, twelve column paper, each page about 6x9 inches. It was edited by Frank S. Hereth, published by the Indianapolis Amateur Press Association, and was neatly printed by Ed-

ward M. Hardy, of Whiteland, Ind., now editor and proprietor of the Edinburgh *Courier*, (prof.) This little sheet I took to school with me and surreptiously devoured its contents, which were not so much that it took very long, but as I read, the knowledge of the existence of a number of other journals, similar to it in tone, came to me, and I realized for the first time, that there were several hundred youths, some few not older than myself—then in my fifteenth year—who were editing and printing such journals and exchanging their little publications with each other, giving their cotemporaries notices, praising some and harshly criticising others; publishing essays, sketches, poems and serial stories written by boys and girls; containing accounts of Amateur Press Associations and conventions, participated in and officered by youthful journalists, in short forming a vast literary society, in which I, myself, might become one.

The last thought fired me, and the ambition to become an amateur journalist took possession of my thoughts. The anticipated pleasure of seeing articles from my own pen in print, was an entrancing one, and without thinking whether any contemplated literary attempts of mine were such as would not cause ridicule and censure to greet their ap-

pearance, or, it may be, with a conceited notion that my literary effusions would be of so precocious an order that they would be hailed with exclamations of applause as the emanations of a juvenile genius, I determined to be the editor and publisher of an amateur paper similar to the *Boy of To-Day*, the equal of which I hoped to make my contemplated journal, although I understood that some of the *Boy's* publishers were nearly men grown.

The *Boy* itself was but a fair representative of its class of that day (although the standard has advanced considerably since) but I appreciated every line contained in its minature columns, and read and re-read them so often that even at this late date, although I now have the delapidated and torn sheet before me, I can almost remember the tenor of every article that it published. On the last page were several "exchange advertisements" from other journals, wherein it was stated that by sending three cent stamps or address upon postal cards, specimen copies would be mailed the writer. These advertisements I answered that evening, and also mailed my correspondent, Perrin, a letter of inquiry in reference to the probable cost of such a sheet as the *Boy of To-Day*.

While waiting for his answer, I met, a day or two after writing, a former school-fellow of mine, Walter H. Cox, then engaged in the printing business, with his brother, publishers of the LaFayette Daily *Bee*, (since suspended), and proprietors of a fine job printing office. Speaking to Walter about the cost of issuing a small paper, I was informed by him that in 1872-3, his brother and he had published their *Bee* as an amateur monthly. After further conversation, it was agreed between us that we would issue an amateur paper in partnership, the typographical work to be done by us (he was to learn me to manipulate the types,) after business hours at night, in his own office, each sharing the expense of issuing such a publication. I was to be the editor and Cox the business manager of the sheet, and when we parted from each other, all plans were complete. Here I was in a fair way to soon realize my wish, and be the editor of a printed periodical.

That night Cox and I spent several hours in his office, but the only result was a printed heading of *Excelsior*, which we had determined to dub our embryo journal, upon a blank slip of paper. But the next night and for many nights afterward, I labored with my companion in learning to set type. In the meanwhile, we had changed our plans.

Our idea now, was to publish a handsome weekly, to be called the *Boys' and Girls' Herald*, devote it partly to school matters, and work up enough advertising among the merchants of LaFayette to pay all expenses and yield a considerable profit besides. I slowly learned to set type, and finally, about the 15th of October, with the assistance of four columns of stereotype matter, we printed two pages of our paper.

But I was not destined to appear before the amateur world for some time yet. Cox had other demands made upon his time, and the issue of our *Herald* was postponed until finally all idea of its publication was relinquished.

Meanwhile, the specimen copies of amateur journals, which I had sent for, came to hand. The *Queen City Journal*, a twelve page magazine, from Whiteland, Ind, edited by E. M. Hardy, and the *Boys' News*, a little four page sheet, one half the size of the *Boy of To-Day*, from Union City, Ind. The *Boys' News* was a miserable affair, but I did not think so at that time and rather envied the fortunate publisher. The *Queen City Journal*, however was quite creditable and would rival many of our latter day sheets. It contained sketches from "Winslow," "Harry St. Clair," Harry S. Barler,

Wilbur C. Bing and "Phil Osopher," all prominent amateurs; had a convention report of the "Amateur Journalists' Centennial Commission," book reviews, answers to correspondents, poetry, editorials, etc., occupying twelve neatly printed pages. If I had envied the publisher of the *Boys' Union*, I thought the publisher of the *Queen City Journal* had certainly reached the pinacle of earthly glory, and my ambition settled itself in the prospect of some day being able to issue such a paper as the *Journal*.

It is needless to say that my interest in Amateur Journalism was not abated upon the receipt of these papers. Upon the contrary, I grew more anxious to enter the ranks in an editorial capacity, and learning from Will. Perrin that Hardy asked $6.50 for printing 300 copies of a paper size of the *Boy of To-Day*, I made a proposition to Perrin to issue an amateur journal in partnership with him and have Hardy do the printing.

Perrin was taken with the idea, which had probably then first occured to him, and a long, though hasty correspondence ensued, the result of which was the determination upon our part to issue an amateur journal in partnership, he to be the "Business Manager," and I the editor. It was decided to

name the journal the *Indiana Boy*, with the motto (nearly every paper had a motto at that time) of "*Multum in Parvo.*"

Again I was upon the road of being an amateur editor, and many hours were passed in concocting the Salutatory and other manuscript for the first issue, all of which, with the exception of a few short notes, being my handiwork, including two sketches entitled "A Bear Hunt," and "How we Cured a Sneak," immature efforts, which ye author looks back upon now with surprise at the conceit which lead to the belief that such trash was worthy of print. And yet, after all, they were not so bad for a fourteen year old school boy, nor yet, again, were they superior to what might be expected of his age.

The letters between Perrin and myself flew thick and fast. Finally he informed me that arrangements were being made to organize an Indiana Amateur Press Association, the convention to be held at Indianapolis, Thanksgiving Day, November 25, and invited me to be present. I was anxious to participate in one of these meetings and made arrangements for attending. As the appointed day drew near, I went to Indianapolis a day or two in advance, with the manuscript for the *Indiana Boy* in my pocket, and paid a visit to Perrin, whom I had not seen for two

or three years, and we spent the intervening time in discussing our future amateur career.

At last the day arrived. Early in the morning Perrin and I sallied to the depot, to await the coming of visiting amateurs, and while there, I made the acquaintance of Frank S. Hereth, L. D. Wells, W. H. Moffett, Ed. C. Goe and Oscar Huey of the *Boy of To-Day*, and Geo. B. Conway, an amateur printer, all of Indianapolis. Then Will. A. Innes and C. S. Hartman, both connected with the *Brilliant*, of Grand Rapids, Mich., put in an appearance, as also did Norwood Fitch, of the *Post Boy*, of Madison, Ind, and E. M. Hardy and J. White, of Whiteland, Ind.

I can never forget that morning. The vision of the groups of merry boys, clustered around the dingy old Union Depot, comes to me yet. Papers passed to and fro, with a running comment upon amateur affairs, which I partly understood, and I rejoiced in my heart as I made every accession to my collection. Innes' *Brilliant*, copies of which I here received, was probably the best amateur paper in the West at that time, with, perhaps, the exception of Roberts & Dingwall's *Amateur Aspirant*. What was of particular attraction to me in the copy I received, was a well written report of the conventions of he Buckeye, Western and Amateur Congress

Press Associations. This paper also contained the first amateur news department I had seen, conducted by Carlton B. Case, "Typo." This department was a good one, and imparted considerable information, especially to a new comer like myself.

The time flew rapidly by and the boys separated for dinner, the Indianapolis amateurs acting as hosts to all the strangers, much to the probable devastation of the larder, as I never met an amateur who did not possess a good appetite.

About two o'clock, Thursday, Nov. 25th, 1875, the first convention of the Indiana Amateur Press Association was called to order in the class rooms of Roberts Park M. E. church, by Ed. M. Hardy, who served as chairman, *pro tem.* I took no active part, but remained a silent and interested spectator of the proceedings. Thirteen amateurs were present, including myself. Innes was the life of the convention, continually jumping up and making motions, he and Hartman being suffered to participate in the proceeding through courtesy. Ed. M. Hardy was elected president, Oscar L. Huey, vice president, Frank S. Hereth, secretary, Ed. C. Goe, treasurer, and the *Queen City Journal* official organ. My name was proposed as a candidate for the treasuership, and I received three votes

out of the twelve cast, thus appearing as a candidate for office upon my first presentation to the amateur ranks! However, this step was not voluntary upon my part, but was urged upon me by my friends, Perrin and Huey.

The miscellaneous business of the convention consisted of the adoption of a Constitution, and election of honorary members, after which the Association adjourned, to meet at the option of the president, Hardy, who was given the mss. for our *Indiana Boy*, and promised to have it out for us early in December.

I purchased a copy of "Innes' Amateur Directory for 1875," from him while in attendance at the convention. This was the largest work of the kind ever issued, consisting of 165 pages, printed by professional printers upon fine tinted book paper, and containing a complete list of the amateurs and amateur journals of that day, with auto-biographies of several of the most prominent youthful journalists, and a complete list of amateur books issued up to the date of the Directory's publication.

With the information I had gained at the convention and the assistance of this Direc tory, my insight into Amateur Journalism became much clearer. With my increase of

knowledge, my desire to enter actively in the ranks and participate in its doings also increased and upon my return home, I awaited with anxious expectancy the appearance of the *Indiana Boy* from the printer. The first and second week of December passed and yet it did not come, and I urged my partner, Perrin, to hurry the publication along. Finally he obtained word from Hardy that our little sheet would be out the first of the year, and we had to settle down to a couple week's more suspense.

I was still learning to set type, in the mean time, at the Cox boys' office, and had thoroughly mastered the "boxes," and could now make a little progress. I was given full liberty to the use of the type and presses and every day would pass my leisure time in learning the mysteries of the printing office, very frequently being truant from school.

January 3rd, 1876, the postman brought me my share of the first edition of the *Indiana Boy*. With what eager haste did I untie the bundle! How I gloated over my first appearance before the world as an author and editor.

Hardy, the printer, had made a good job of it, and the *Boy* was quite attractive in appearance. The contents were well displayed and, altogether, I felt proud of our first effort

After getting my fill of looking the *Boy* over, I wrapped and addressed as many of them as addresses of other journals to mail them to could be found, and the next morning mailed my first amateur attempt to the four quarters of the country, and then awaited, with great impatience, the coming of exchanges.

The first amateur journal I ever received as an exchange for any of my publications, was the *Amateur Reporter*, of Lawrence, Kansas, which arrived at my "sanctum" a few days after the mailing of the *Indiana Boy*. With the exception of a sketch by "Cosmos," and a puzzle department conducted by C. E. Harney, it was nearly all advertising, yet it was of great interest to me, as indeed, were all the exchanges which I first received. I recollect looking through its columns in the vain hope that possibly it might contain a notice of myself. As a usual thing, the first thing an amateur editor does on the receipt of an exchange, is to glance hastily through its columns, to notice whether there is any comment upon himself or journal contained in them; if not, he is then prepared to digest their general contents. Should an exchange contain a notice of himself, the average amateur editor is pleased beyond measure, even if it is couched in terms

the reverse of complimentary, for the love of notoriety is a characteristic with amateur journalists

Other exchanges came slowly to me during the month of January, the *Post Boy*, *Trigger and Reel*, *Omaha Excelsior*, *Maple Leaf*, *Folio*, *Golden Rule*, *Jolly Joker*, *Excelsior*, *Literary News* and *Fountain City Boys* being among the number.

Of these the *Maple Leaf*, *Post Boy* and *Fountain City Boys* made mere mention of the *Indiana Boy's* existence, but that was all.

I was not quite satisfied with the partnership arrangement of the *Indiana Boy*, and early in January commenced composition on another paper, to be all my own, which I designed to print at the Cox boys' office. Upon January 15th, the first issue of the WELCOME VISITOR was out; it had four pages, twelve columns; contained a "blood and thunder" indian story, a salutatory, and a few short notes, besides a selected article and one page of advertising. The salutatory set forth the intention of making the VISITOR one of the best journals in existence, which modest statement, however, I myself, did not "take any stock in," as I did not contemplate at that time, making it a regular publication.

The WELCOME VISITOR received its name from the fact that I had already determined

to call it the VISITOR, but upon setting the name in a type to which I had taken a fancy found it was too short a line to look well, and then and there I added the word "WELCOME," thus making the name to the type, something which I know has been done before and since by other amateurs.

The second issue of the *Indiana Boy* came out early in February, as also did that of the WELCOME VISITOR. The first contained a sketch from my pen, besides an editorial and short notes. Shortly after its appearance, I severed my connection with it and devoted myself to the VISITOR. The second issue of this journal was enlarged a little and contained the conclusion of the sensational story which had been continued from the first issue, and an editorial condemning the absence of literary work by the editors of many of my exchanges at that time, besides some notices of exchanges and puns. It is a characteristic with new comers into the field of Amateurdom, that they are all inclined to be inveterate punsters, and I had a very bad attack, apparently.

Exchanges were now coming rapidly to me, and both the *Indiana Boy* and the WELCOME VISITOR received some notices. The former was called "very good" by the *Jolly Joker* and the *Boys' Journal*, and also re-

ceived words of praise from other journals. The VISITOR did not amount to much in those days, and gave but faint promise of what it was destined to become; a new amateur journal very seldom attracts much attention from the fraternity, unless it should be of exceptional merit.

The third issue of the VISITOR appeared in April, and, indeed, for over a year was mailed with such undeviating regularity that it soon became noted for its promptitude of publication. This issue was upon good white book paper and had a supplement of two pages. The matter published was all from the pen of its editor and relative to amateur affairs. By this time I had become tolerably well versed in the doings of Amateurdom, and in consequence my journal showed greater ability and was more interesting than at the start. Even at this early date I advocated the giving of more attention to the editorial department by amateur editors and the VISITOR contained an item which read as follows:

"If little 5x6 papers knew how much better a good editorial, or even original, spicy notes would look in their journals, instead of the short stories and anecdotes clipped from other journals which we all have read, they would abolish this absurd practice of clipping."

At this time I had not realized the possibility of amateur editors letting their journals getting much behind time, and could not comprehend why it was that journals sent me in exchange for the VISITOR were dated two or three months previous, and hence remonstrated as follows:

"One thing which we wish to enjoin on our exchanges, is the sending of their *late* numbers. We send our *last* number in exchange, but sometimes receive journals two, three and four months back for our late numbers. We desire your last issues." Which proves we had something yet to learn, and only too soon we obtained the lacking knowledge, partly by practical experience.

Replying to different correspondents wishing to conduct a puzzle department in the VISITOR, I perpetrated the following bit of sarcasm, which effectually answered its purpose: "We are in receipt of letters from different parties, asking to conduct a puzzle department in our journal. In reply, we would say that we do not wish one at present, but will give one column a month for that purpose for 25 cents per issue or $2.50 per annum. Larger space bargained for." The puzzler's fraternity let me alone for a long time upon the strength of that.

I have always taken pleasure in gathering

amateur statistics, and in this issue announced that twenty of my exchanges had puzzle departments, fifteen had amateur news departments, seventeen had serial stories and seventeen had "book reviews." My exchanges did not then number over fifty.

Speaking of book reviews, reminds me of the receipt of the first amateur book sent me for criticism. The title of it was "Mart's Mishaps;" it had eight pages, price four cents. It was written by Almon E. Pitts, a prolific author of that day, though not a brilliant one. It can hardly be said that I was much impressed with this work.

Another amateur journal besides my own, bore the title of the WELCOME VISITOR. Upon expressing my regret that there should be two sheets in the ranks with the same name, (although this coincidence often occurs,) the *Mail*, of Rockland, Maine, commented as follows:

"The WELCOME VISITOR, of LaFayette, is sorry to learn that there is another paper of that name. So are we—one is enough."

Which was more witty than wise. However, I forgave the *Mail*.

The largest exchange I had received in March was the *New England Star*, of New Ipswich, N. H. This journal was then publishing a serial entitled "The Colonel's Little

Game," by "Humpty Dumpty," which was advertised as the "champion amateur serial,' was to contain one hundred chapters, and said to cover over two thousand sheets of commercial note paper in manuscript form. The author, Richard . Gerner, was widely known, being a very prolific, talented and yet erratic writer, who previous to this year, had been one of the most powerful amateurs in the ranks. His sketches were marked by a strong tinge of sensationalism, which the disciples of "pure literature," who began to get numerous, under the leadership of "Winslow"—John W. Snyder—strongly opposed, and as this faction gathered strength, the popularity of Gerner declined. "The Colonel's Little Game," was undoubtedly a masterpiece, and remarkably fine for an amateur author.

About this time I received a postal card from "Winslow," the phraseology of which was something like the following:

Dear Brother Amateur:

Your spicy little journal came to me the other day and I can indeed say it was a "welcome visitor." I am glad to notice that you are opposed to sensational literature; the stronger the stand which we make against it, the sooner will it vanish from our columns. I am now doing better literary work than I have done formerly, and would

like to become a regular contributor to your journal. I will promise you to do my best to make your paper attractive, and you can rely on me for all I can do. Let me hear from you. Yours, etc.,

J. Winslow Snyder."

Probably some of the amateur journalists who glance over these pages may recognize in the above, the tenor of a similar communication which the obliging "Winslow" had sent themselves, as that was about the way he used to serve most of the new comers in the ranks. Yet "Winslow" was the best author, in a general field of literature, that was ever in the ranks of Amateur Journalism," and also the most prolific. I suppose he must have made considerable money out of the "boys," and according to my calculations, must have received as high as three hundred dollars (if not more) in one year from the Amateur Press in payment for his contributions. This will seem a small sum to a business man, but when it is considered that amateur publishers, as a rule, do not pay for literary contributions, and that "Winslow," himself, was not pursuing literature as a profession, the sum augments into very nice little pocket-money.

"Winslow," at this time, was known by his championship of essay writing, and his reputation had been made as a writer of these

articles; indeed, it was not until this year that he contributed anything but this class of literature to the Amateur Press. "Winslow" made the essay popular, and it was mainly through his efforts that sensational and flash literature has been forced from the columns of amateur journals as much as it has.

Our Boys, Toledo, Ohio, and the *Boys' Herald*, Ansonia, Ct., were two noticable amateur journals which I received in March. The former consisted of sixteen three column pages, well printed upon good book paper and filled with interesting matter, of which the serial, "Izone," by "Quigton Quigley," (Albert W. Bagg,) was the most prominent. The *Boys' Herald*, which had formerly been published by English & Hall, at New Haven, Ct., before my entrance into the ranks, was now issued by Pemberton & Johnson in the same style and size as used by their predecessors. This journal was the best known amateur then published; both it and *Our Boys*, however, were now published by young men of between twenty-two and twenty-three years of age, and cannot be classed as *boyish* productions.

My father, taking some interest in my amateur journalistic career, was induced to buy me fifty pounds of second-hand long primer type, with cases, stands, small composing

stone, rules, leads, etc., with three founts of display type, so that I was able to do all the work upon my VISITOR at home, and with my own material, excepting the press-work.

With these advantages, the fourth, or May issue of the VISITOR was enlarged to a twelve column journal and printed upon tinted book paper, and the contents were much improved in tone. A sketch by myself, entitled "Harry's Hamper," was published, besides an article by Chas. E. Harney, "Tellie Graff," whom I had noticed flatteringly in my previous issue, and in consequence was favored with this contribution.

About the same time I had received the postal card from "Winslow," mentioned previously, he also sent me a copy of an amateur book written by him, entitled "Amateur Papers," consisting of 47 pages. This book was the most interesting of its kind that I have ever read, containing, first, a short, though well written history of Amateur Journalism; second, an essay, in which the author described his *beau ideal* of an amateur journal; what it should contain and how gotten up; third, an essay entitled "Among Our Amateur Papers," describing thoughts, feelings and reminiscences connected with over-looking a pack of old papers, forming as a whole a most instructive and pleasing work for any

new comer to the ranks, as I was then, and one which has had a great deal of influence in its time. The author, in giving a description of his *beau ideal* of an amateur journal, gave the "book review" as part of the contents which he would accord to it, and by this sly dodge, nearly every journal receiving a copy of "Amateur Papers" were particular in giving it an extended and, of course, flattering notice.

I had an item in the April issue, asking for autobiographies of prominent amateurs, and in answer, Wyndham A. Morris, of Davenport, Iowa, publisher of the *Monthly Doings*, sent his. This was my first introduction to my political opponent of two years afterwards, in the campaign for the presidency of the Western A. P. A. The gross egotism of the boy and his inordinate love of notoriety, was shown by this action.

In my March issue, in five or six places, the word "volume" had been spelt "volumn," and the VISITOR received a number of criticisms upon its erroneous orthography, among which was the following from the Hoosier Boy, of Terre Haute:

"The editor of the WELCOME VISITOR is an efficient ink-slinger, but he don't take eztra care in his spelling. In his last number it is spelled "volumn" six different tiwes

It is curious that fount of type does not contain a "W." In the heading of his last issue the 'W' is composed of two 'V's.'"

The above comment is given *verbatim*, typographical errors and bad grammar included. The reply of "the residents of glass houses" might have been made, but I forbore.

The concluding sentence of the above item, referred to the type in which I had set the heading of the March issue, and as the item states, the W was composed of two V's. This was done from the fact of being in a hurry to get the journal out and that all the W's of the letter in which the heading was set were in use for job work; also, as an advertising dodge to attract attention to the VISITOR.

The "dodge" was successful, at all events, and combined with my bad spelling, resulted in the VISITOR getting a score of notices,—none, however, being quite as complimentary as I might have wished.

As a usual thing, amateur editors are more inclined to censure than to praise; they are apt to notice and comment upon errors and mistakes, but leave merit to find its own level.

The *Hoosier Boy* was surprised at the wittiness of the VISITOR'S puns, and expressed itself, thusly:

"Ye Gods! and little fishes! The WELCOME VISITOR gets off the following: 'Our exhibi-

tion at Philadelphia is going to be no nickle affair; oh no, quite a ten cent yel," which was rather atrocious, I'll admit.

The *Boys' Journal* was the name of a little paper started by Fred J. Severson, of La-Fayette, during the month of April. It was printed by Ed. M. Hardy, who at that time was the most popular amateur printer in the ranks and turned out a number of journals for their editors, doing the work in good style.

Our mutual connection with Amateur Journalism soon made me well acquainted with Severson, and he proposed to have me do the printing of his *Journal.* This I agreed to do for a small price (about $1.75 for 100 copies) and got his May issue out for him. Severson was very young at that time, a year or so younger than myself, and had no ability as a writer. For this first issue which I printed for him, I wrote an editorial and some short items, and we both had the satisfaction of seeing the *Journal* hailed by the fraternity as readable, neat and interesting.

Through Severson's interest I also obtained the printing of the *Boys' Gazette*, of Farmer City, Ills., published by Edward C. Gay, who was the worst speller and grammarian that I ever knew to be in the amateur ranks. Both the *Gazette* and *Journal* were small. four column papers.

Seeing some prospect of being able to get the outlay back, my father was induced to purchase a No. 3 Pearl self-inking press, with fixtures, and a considerable amount of type, etc., so that I could be able to do some little job work. With what sensations of joy did I behold myself at last the proprietor of an amateur printing office! My wildest thoughts and hopes of a few months before were unexpectedly realized, and I was in full possession of material sufficient to place myself before the amateur fraternity to the extent of my ability.

While waiting for the arrival of my press, I had set, and had in type, a short sketch by myself, under the *nom de plume* of "Tom Rison," and in two days after the receipt of material, "Harry's Combat" in twelve pages and cover made its appearance, and was mailed to amateur publishers for review.

During my stay among the amateur fraternity, "Harry's Combat" received over sixty reviews, nearly all flattering. The *Tatler* of Albany, N. Y. had this to say about it:

"We have received a copy of "Harry's Combat," and must say that the story is good and keeps one interested to the end. In fact we were sorry there wasn't more of it. The printing is good."

"Harry's Combat, a tale,' has a cute little curl at the end. We are pleased with its waggle."—*Youth's Progress*, Dec. 1876.

"A moderately good tale, moderately well told, and moderately well printed.—*Imp*, '76.

"A book of which nothing ill can be said and very little of good. The tale is good and very well told. The printing and binding are creditably performed."—*Young American*, Jan. 1877.

The above notices will give the reader an idea of the merits of the book. I consider the *Imp's* review to be the most impartial.

The short correspondence which I had with Chas. E. Harney, "Tellie Graff," had prepossessed me in his favor, and previous to issuing my June VISITOR, I wrote and offered him an associate editorship on the paper. Harney accepted the position, and for a long time we remained friends and correspondents. Harney was eighteen years of age at the time of his connection with the VISITOR, and had some previous connection with Amateur Journalism and knowledge of the fraternity's doings, so his accession to the editorial columns of my journal helped considerably to improve the contents of the sheet. He was a spicy and able writer and I look back with pleasure to the time of his connection with me in shoving the VISITOR forward.

The VISITOR had already been achieving some little reputation, as the following notices, received during April and May, show:

"The Welcome Visitor from LaFayette, is excellent."—*Budget*, Balt. Md.

"Has spicy editorials."—*Enterprise.*

"New and sensible journal from LaFayette."—*Granite Herald.*

"Quite a spicy sheet."—*Monthly Mercury.*

"Neat, and contents first-class."—*Boys' Own Monthly.*

The June issue contained a selected sketch, a short editorial upon "Amateur Humbugs," from the pen of Harney, and a number of short items, etc. I give Harney's editorial full, below:

"One would naturally infer from the number of "Rogue's Columns," now being introduced in many papers, that one half the amateur faction are scoundrels, three eights fools and the remainder composed of wiseacres, whose particular duty it is to expose the first and guard the second. The objects of these departments may be refined and commendable enough, but it has a tendency of giving the public an idea that the fraternity is chiefly composed of blood-suckers who are actively engaged in bleeding the simpler portion of the members.

Every institution has swindlers, and undoubtedly Amateurdom has its share. But it is hard to believe that we are associating with such a swarm of rascals as the necessity of these departments would indicate. Mistakes occur every day, and the author of them is often proclaimed a swindler before conclusive proof is given, or he has time to

rectify his error, thus imperrilling the character of many an upright amateur. Dryden says:

> "Errors, like straws, upon the surface flow,
> He who would seek for pearls, must dive below,"

Therefore we should search beneath the surface, and if decisive evidence is obtained, any amateur journal will have sufficient space for the exposure of a fraud, thus rendering a special department for that purpose unnecessary."

During June I printed the *Boys' Journal* and *Boys' Gazette* for their publishers, and also a six page, eighteen column paper, entitled the *Wabash Journal*, which was published by the "LaFayette Literary Association," composed of several youths, friends of mine, who were ambitious of literary fame. The *Journal*, however, was never mailed to the amateur fraternity.

The July issue of the VISITOR was printed upon white paper, in red and blue ink, to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of our country. Several other amateur journals also appeared in colors, thus paying a fitting tribute to the occasion. The VISITOR this month was all editorial, except the advertising, and was the best issue yet published. Harney contributed an editorial upon "The Crinoline Literati," a pleasing subject, as he said, and one in which the average amateur editor of the present day manifests consider-

able interest. He had also burlesqued under the head of "A Centennial Relic," the passion which many amateurs had of resurrecting amateur journalistic antiquities, and writing long descriptions and accounts of them. I contributed an editorial upon "Amateur News Departments," wherein it was claimed that they were of no benefit to the fraternity and as a rule, did not fulfill the object for which they were supposed to be inserted. With this issue, also, the VISITOR commenced publishing a column of original puns and witty paragraphs, under the caption of "Jeu de Motts," which proved a taking feature, and one that received many imitators.

All during the early portion of the year, my amateur exchanges were discussing ways and means for a representation of Amateur Journalism at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, but without discovering any satisfactory and practicable plan. The *Excelsior* of Troy, N. Y., finally proposed that amateur publishers print from one thousand to five thousand copies as an extra edition, and circulate gratuitously at the Exhibition, and a number of cotemporary journals resolved on following the plan. The VISITOR opposed it, arguing that no advantage would accrue, and the result would be lost labor and paper.

In the December number of the *Gazette*, of Portland, Maine, C. E. Williams, its editor, first suggested the plan of a grand meeting of amateurs at Philadelphia, during the progress of the Centennial Exhibition, and to which the present National A. P. A. owes its existence. Williams' suggestion was favorably received and in the Spring the Philadelphia amateurs began making preparations for a meeting. Invitations were issued and the City Institute Hall was secured for the convention.

I quote *verbatim* from the report of the convention, written by James A. Fynes, Jr., for his *Idle Hours*. Fynes presents a very good picture of the proceedings, and one which, I am sure, will be of interest:

"Tuesday, tbe glorious Fourth, dawned bright and sunny, and Jamus, the Sol-god, began his moisty labor early in the day. Of course there were many interesting ceremonies occuring during the morning, which, if possible, we should like to have seen; but the hour of assembly at the 'vention rendered such a course impossible, and—well, that matter has been discussed long ago, so let it "slide." Suffice it to say that twelve o'clock found us in the City Institute Hall, "seeing the boys." Poor Beck's prophecy of an attendance of at least one hundred was doomed to dissolution, for according to the register, there were but sixty-five present. However, what was lacking in number, was made up

in fame, we opine. Very seldom does it occur that such leaders as "Winslow," Allen, Briggs, Kendall, Gerner, Case, McColm and Heuman get together; and hence the day must be considered in every respect a great gala day in amateur annals.

It was probably about one o'clock when the chatter of voices died away 'neath the rap of the temporary chairman's gaval. Richard Gerner ascended the platform, amid a little storm of applause, said applause, by the way, being started by that fathful band of Gerner's claquers—the Philadelphia A. P. A. More anon, however. Gerner then proceeded to deliver his address, read the long speech entirely from prepared manuscript. Mr. Gerner eloquently referred to the progress already attained by Amateur Journalism: perdicted for it even a more glorious future. In concluding his address, Mr. Gerner introduced Mr. James M. Beck, of the Philadelphia *Sphinx*, who was to deliver the "Welcome" to the visiting "ams;" now, Becky, there *was* a *little* bit of a "welcome address" to your remarks, to be sure, and that that little was hearty and sincere, we cordially admit; but after all, you only delivered a spread eagle eulogy on Gerner, didn't you? Writing even at this late day, we can remember how you said:

"There has been some little dispute as to our selection of Mr. Gerner for temporary chairman, raised by some of our amateurs" —(and here Becky's eyes sought the corner where sat the powerful (?) three Boston delegates; why, we wonder?)—"but in doing

this we believed, and we still believe, that we did right." Then it was: "Mr. Gerner is a prominent amateur! His words, *here*, TO-DAY!" and Becky grew excited, "speak for themselves!" and Becky came down a peg or two; "Mr. Gerner is one of the smartest amateur authors in the country! Mr. Gerner is one of the oldest amateurs! Mr. Gerner is one of the most genial amateurs!" and finally Becky paused, out of breath and out of adjectives; he had exhausted the Gerner vocabulary quite through! Simultaneous with Mr. Beck's conclusion, several motions were made by Hosey, of N. Y. City, White, of Washington, D. C., and Fynes, of Boston, Mass., all being to the effect that the meeting proceed to the choice of a permanent chairman. The motion was put and carried. Amid respective applause, the following candidates were nominated, Gerner, Kendall, Allen, "Winslow," E. R. Hoadly, Jr., and J. Guilford White. Mr. White withdrew his name. It was moved and carried that the vote be taken by ballot, and that the chair appoint two tellers. Messrs Vondersmith, Bertron and Williamson appointed. On information being asked, the chairman *pro tem* announced that the candidate having the *highest number of votes would be declared elected.* Mr. Kendall, of Boston, Mass., arose to correct the chair on that point. Mr. Kendall believed the meeting was to be conducted upon strictly parliamentary principles. (Applause.) Then, reading from Cushing's Manual, Mr. Kendall informed the chair that in "all deliberative assemblies, when a vote

for presiding officers is taken, the vote shall be taken by ballot, and a *majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary for a choice.*" (Applause.) The chair allowed himself in error and pleaded forgetfulness; ahem! The first ballot was then taken, resulting as follows:

FIRST BALLOT:

Total votes cast.....56.
Necessary to a choice.....29.
Richard Gerner,.....22.
J. W. Snyder, "Winslow,"....18.
E. R. Hoadley,..... 7.
Correl Kendall,..... 6.
Clarence G. Allen,..... 3.

and there was no choice. It was a sight to see the faces of "Gerner's gang," the Philadelphia A. P. A. They had expected to rush their man through without hardly any opposition; and this was, indeed, a bitter pill to swallow. Mr. Kendall is to be highly credited upon his correction of the chair's statement, unintentional or otherwise; for had it been allowed to pass unheeded, the voices of the majority would have been voted down by a band of partizans, and Gerner seated in the permanent chair. Mr. Gerner's opponents, who, by the way, were not at all reserved in their opinions, then effected between themselves, what Becky called a "combination;" the result was like this;

SECOND BALLOT:

Total votes cast.....60
Necessary to a choice,.....31
J. W. Snyder,.....33
Richard Gerner,.....27

and "Winslow," prince of amateur essayists,

was declared elected. Mr. Gerner retired from the platform, and John W. Snyder mounted the rostrum amid a furious storm of plaudits, which he gracefully accepted in one of the prettiest extemporaneous speeches we ever heard from boyish lips. "Winslow's" address was a brilliant thing, impassioned in its language, sensible in thought, and quite uninterrupted by awkward pauses or stops. Only the frequent and hearty demonstrations of applause caused the speaker to halt; and when he finished, the approbation was universal. It was next voted that the meeting choose its permanent secretary, and Mr. Kendall, suggesting the fairness of giving the West representation, nominated Mr. W. T. Hall, of the *High School Gazette*, afterwards *Western Amateur*, Chicago, Ills. Mr. Hall was unanimously elected; and thus the meeting was permanently organized. The business of the meeting was now proceeded to, and the question of organizing a National Amateur Press Association, which, indeed, was the object for which the meeting was convened, was taken up. It was voted to organize such an association, and on motion of Mr. Beck, it was ordered that the officers consist of a president, five "vices," a treasurer, recording and corresponding secretaries, and official organ. On motion, it was voted that the present chairman, ("Winslow,") and secretary (W. T. Hall,) be declared president and recording secretary of the association. Another victory for the anti Gernerites. The vice presidents elected were as follows: first vice, Richard Gerner, Hoboken, N. J.; second

vice, Will. E. Leading, Fly Creek, N. Y.; third vice, Geo. W. Bertron, Philadelphia, Pa.; fourth vice. C. C. Heuman, New York City; fifth vice, Will. W. Winslow, Punxsutawney, Pa. Evan R. Riale was elected corresponding secretary, and J. A. Fynes, Jr., treasurer. Quite a discussion ensued as to the choice of official organ, the matter being between the *New England Star* and *Our Hearthstone Friend.* The former was chosen by a small majority. Long Branch was named as the next place of meeting, the month to be July, and the day to be decided by the president hereafter. Messrs. Gerner, Heuman and Barritt, of New York City, were appointed a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws, to be reported at the next meeting; and it was further voted that the New York and Brooklyn Amateur Press Association be informed to make all necessary arrangements for the next meeting. On motion it was ordered that the Philadelphia Association, which was organized under the rather ambiguous title of the "National" A. P. A. be requested to either change their name to a more local sobriquet, or to disband altogether, to make way for the *real* National. The Philadelphians cheerfully acquiesced in the plan, and their association has now disbanded. The real business of the meeting having been (to us) satisfactorily accomplished, the boys listened to an original humorous poem by F. Macaran, of Philadelphia followed upon his conclusion by Richard Gerner, who read his latest and longest poem, "On the Brink." On the conclusion of Ger-

ner's reading, the convention adjourned to meet in July next, "On the Beach at Long Branch."

The above report gives a very good idea of the convention. Quite a number of the most prominent amateurs were present. The successful organization of the association was hailed by the fraternity with pleasure.

In July I printed Severson's *Journal* and Gay's *Gazette*, again. About this time Gay sent me the mss. for an amateur book, entitled "The Boy Smuggler," which I was to print for him. Upon the receipt of fifty pounds of new brevier type, which I had paid for out of the proceeds of my job printing, I printed and bound 300 copies for him, using blue ink. Although, as yet, I understood only the simple rudiments of printing, I managed to make the "Boy Smuggler" look very well, and it received quite a number of complimentary notices from the amateur press.

During August I failed to issue a VISITOR, being too busily engaged with job work and base-ball. In this month I printed the *Boys Gazette* and the *Southern Meteor* for Oswald C. Ludwig, "Sou Con," a noted puzzler of Decatur, Alabama. The *Meteor* was praised for good printing by the entire fraternity, and I received letters from all over the South,

asking my terms for printing amateur journals.

During August, the second convention of the Indiana A. P. A. was held at Indianapolis, the only one ever held which I did not attend. My friend, Will. R. Perrin, was chosen president.

The August and September issue of the VISITOR was issued early in the latter month and being printed with my new type, looked very well. It contained an essay by "Winslow," upon "The Grave of Morgan, the Thunderbolt," for which I paid one dollar; also the commencement of a story, entitled "The Pirate Chief, or the Adventures of Harry Barker," by Will. E. Davidson, a LaFayette youth, previously connected with the defunct *Wabash Journal*, and a writer of no little ability, having obtained the $5.00 gold prize, offered by a New York professional boys' paper, for the best sketch sent them in competition, his effusion being adjudged the most worthy among the hundreds sent. "The Pirate Chief," was, as its name indicates, of a most sensational tone, and its publication in the VISITOR showed great inconsistency on my part, (nothing unusual, before or since,) as I had previously denounced this same class of literature; comments upon this were made, not exactly complimentary to my firmness.

The September VISITOR also contained an editorial by Harney, upon "Political Amateurs," which was decidedly sarcastic in its treatment of embryo political amateur journals, which the bitter National campaign of the year had engendered. The column of *Jeu de Mots* was continued, and as before, consisted of very bad puns. These, with a number of short items and book reviews, made up the balance of the issue's contents, comprising a more creditable edition than any yet published. Each month my knowledge and interest in Amateur Journalism increased, and by this time I had become very well versed in the ways necessary to make a journal of the VISITOR'S class, popular, and was now able to give scope to all the ability I had, which was not so much, however, that I was enabled to take a position as one of "Amateurdom's leading lights," by any means.

The *Texas Boy*, *Southern Meteer* and *Boys Gazette*, were printed from my press in September, the *Texas Boy*, of Houston, Texas, being the neatest paper of the kind I ever printed, before or since.

The ninth, or October VISITOR, contained a poem by Oswald C. Ludwig, continuation of "The Pirate Chief," book reviews, *Jeu de Mots*, short items, etc., and two editorials,

one by Harney, denouncing "Selected Matter," which was used at that time by a great many papers, and one on "Exchanging with Small Amateur Papers," written by myself. This latter article created quite a sensation among the editors of the smaller amateur journals, as therein I claimed that amateur journals which contained no editorials, nor interesting reading matter, were not worthy of exchanges, and that for one, the VISITOR would refuse to exchange with any of them. At this time there were quite a number of little sheets published, dignified by the name of paper, for no other purpose than the obtaining of exchanges, which were so inferior in point of contents and general make up, that they were lowering the standard of Amateur Journalism. I claimed in my article that by the more representative journals refusing to exchange with them, the original object being lost for which they were published, naturally such sheets would soon suspend, and thus the fraternity be well rid of them. These sheets realized, that in my editorial, a powerful blow had been struck at them, and for the next few months quite a howl resounded from their columns. Other papers having their attention attracted to the subject, sided with the VISITOR, and with their

influence, the "exchange frauds," as they were called, were almost annihilated.

The character of the short items in the VISITOR, was exclusively *amateur*, and relative to Amateur Journalism—comments, criticisms witticisms, etc. I subjoin a few from the October issue, which will give a fair idea of their text:

"We like the *Girls of the West*—a new enterprise.... The *Amateur's Own*, an excellent sheet, is edited by Bob Acorn. Wonder if he is a hard nut?....*All Sorts* is "published for fun and edited for fame," and when the duns begin coming in like a horde of Kansas grasshoppers, the editor will think he undoubtedly has both.... Chase, of the *Omaha Excelsior*, says he stayed over one night at the Lincoln State prison. It is a wonder, that having him in there, the authorities let him loose for a couple of years.... The *Jolly Joker* has had a head put on it, the usual result of being too jovial."

The above items were all in reference to Omaha, Neb., amateur journals and editors, and were reprinted in the columns of the *Joker*, as "taking off" the various papers. The VISITOR's short "notes" were always characterized by a jocular tone and the paper ever maintained a reputation for "spiciness."

The following from the close of Harney's editorial on "Selected Matte[illegible]ll represents his style and is good reading and ap

plies well to many amateur journalists of the present day:

"But the discriminating editor condemns this practice (of publishing selected matter) and applies himself to supplying his paper with sound, original matter, never neglecting to procure such, as that is the cornerstone of its success, for the public is not desirous of purchasing second hand what they have already, most probably, had the benefit of, in its primitive form. Besides making his paper attractive, he is cultivating and maturing his mind by earnest thought, which could not possibly result from clipping exchanges, and by soliciting contributions from his brethern of the fraternity, he is encouraged in his maiden efforts, thus assisting him to gain a foothold in the literary field."

During October I printed the first issue of the *Spectator*, an eight column journal, for Will. E. Davidson, of whom I have spoken before. The *Spectator* made a specialty of book reviewing, and was well received by the amateur press. The *Boys' Gazette* was now printed by other parties, and in its November issue, the following item was inserted,

"Geo. Harrison, of the Welcome Visitor, bounces all "small" papers. He talks as if he was one of the headlights of "big papers." Egotism, bah!"

Gay, the editor of the *Gazette*, seemed to have some grievance against me, but he was of such a character that he had not manli-

ness enough to attack me while I was doing his work.

E. M. Hardy, in the early part of the year, had published an "Indiana Amateur Guide," and as many changes had taken place, I determined to issue a similar "Directory" for 1877; so in the November VISITOR, announcement was made of my intention and I began preparing manuscript.

The November VISITOR contained the conclusion of "The Pirate Chief," editorials upon "Alliteration" and "Printing," *Jeu de Mots*, book reviews, short items, advertisements, etc. The article condemning the inordinate use of alliterative titles and headings, as used by amateur editors of this period, excited comment, and gave rise to a number of editorials in cotemporary journals, relative to the same subject.

It was in October that I first commenced exchanging with Ben Newsome's *Young American*, from Carbondale, Ills. It was then a miserably printed, botched-up sheet, on the worst kind of crookedly cut newspaper, and yet it had attracted considerable attention by its spiciness. Newsome and I became warm friends, although we did not meet personally, until in 1880, and each took great interest in the other's career. Ben's first shy at the VISITOR was this:

"The Welcome Visitor is a regular old June bug from LaFayette," and in my November issue I came back at him by saying "The *Young American* is 'a regular old potato bug' from Carbondale, Ills." Ben afterwards retorted that he "had no affection for Paris green."

Probably no amateur book publisher of late years has made as much money out of his publications as I have. The plan I persued, however, was different from the ordinary mode of disposing of books, and may give some of my readers, who are interested in the subject, an idea, so here it is:

In the first place, the price placed upon amateur books is generally two, three and even four times their value. In the case of "Harry's Combat," which was advertised at ten cents per copy, I readily exchanged with other book publishers from three to ten copies, and soon accumulated a large number of different books. These I would advertise, singly, at their list price, or the entire lot for a sum one half or even one third what their cost would be at publisher's prices, and easily found purchasers for all I had. I calculated that from trading this way, I must have made from $10 to $15 off of the edition of "Harry's Combat," a short sketch that would not cover

over two columns of an average amateur journal.

A few more current press notices on the VISITOR are subjoined:

"WELCOME VISITOR, LaFayette, can stand among the highest."—*Exposition*, Phil.

"An excellent sheet and one of Amateurdom's best."—*Amateur Era*, Washington.

"A well edited and printed paper."—*Advertiser*, New Haven, Ct.

"An amateur paper that reflects credit upon both editor and printer."—*Bugle*, Ind'plis.

As the VISITOR gained in popular favor, the ambition to place it still higher induced me to put more labor on it. The *Brilliant*, published by Will. Innes, with an editorial staff of five amateurs, gave me the idea of getting two or three amateur journalists to associate with me in making the VISITOR a "criterion of editorial ability," and persuant to this thought, I wrote to Stanton S. Mills, formerly publisher of the *Western Amateur* of Rock Island, and an amateur author of acknowledged ability, and to Arthur E. Blood, of Lawrence, Kansas, formerly publisher of the *Amateur Oracle*, and at one time connected with the *Amateur Reporter*, of the same city, and offered them positions on my "editorial staff." Both accepted, and Mills referred me to Alex. W. Dingwall, of Milwaukee, Wis., formerly publisher of the famous

Amateur Aspirant, as one who would be a desirable acquisition to my journal in an editorial capacity. Pleased with Mills' suggestion, I wrote to Dingwall, and he also accepted the position. I had now the strongest editorial *corps* of any amateur journal in the country, and looked forward to establishing the VISITOR as the foremost paper of its kind in the amateur ranks.

The December issue was enlarged to six pages, eighteen columns, with an announcement of still further enlargement the next month. It contained an essay by John Hosey, one of the publishers of *Our Free Lance*, on "Faith,"—in an amateur journalistic view,—a *very* sensational sketch by Frank Greenlee, a LaFayette amateur, entitled "The Rifleman's Revenge," short items and the following editorials: "Brevity the Soul of Wit," by Harney, "Wanted," by Blood, "Sensational Literature," by Mills, and "The Western Wilderness," and "That Convention," by Dingwall.

Harney's article treated his subject in his usual, light, spicy style, which I am always pleased to quote. I give one paragraph:

"Some of the most sublime thoughts, the wittiest puns, the handsomest compliments, and the most delicate expressions, are but brief sentences, requiring but a few words for their expression. It is not the diction, it is not the vocabulary, neither is it the happy

construction of words or sentences, but it is the sentiment (the *soul* it might be termed,) embodied in them that pleases and attracts, for it is not always the largest parcel that contains the most valuable goods, (the evidence of which—an animate parcel—we have in view) still it is not always *vice versa*."

Blood accused the majority of amateur edtors of want of originality, and truly said:

"The *Boys' Herald* has probably been the most extensively copied of any other journal in Amateurdom, but in fact every popular journal has its scores of imitators who follow in its lead most implicitly. Does it advocate serial stories, they are just the thing; if sketches, their serials immediately disappear. Let it accuse any one of being a fraud, and they most emphatically echo the sentiment, and so on to the end of the chapter."

Mills, in his article on "Sensational Literature," made one of the first, if not the *first* attack upon the New York professional boys' papers, on their publication of degrading and pernicious stories, a subject which has since been written and re-written upon by amateur journalists of each succeeding year. He began as follows:

"If there is one class of literature more than another deserving the censure and condemnation of the American people, it is certainly that, which, for want of a more applicable name, we term "infamous literature." It is a mixture of incredibility and sensationalism, clothed in language possessing not the

minutest adjunct of literature, thus rendering it an absolute breach of respect to such men as Carlyle or Goldsmith for people to give it that name.

"Next to obscene literature, and the distinction is hardly apparent, there is no class of literature so injurious to the intellect, so destructive of morality, and so dangerous to every known virtue, as the infamous literature to be found in such pernicious sheets as the *Boys of New York*, *Boys of the World*, and a score of equally disgraceful publications."

Dingwall's article on "That Convention," was a burlesque on the meeting of the National A. P. A. and Richard Gerner, and under the head of "The Western Wilderness," he attacked the propensity of the Eastern press to consider the West as a half civilized region, and gave an instance of the mistake of a no less person than James G. Blaine, as being deceived by these erroneous views.

My own work upon this issue of the Visitor was confined to the short items, criticisms, comments, etc., always the spiciest portion of a journal's contents, and that which excites the greatest interest, although the field for reputation and fame is limited. In fact, my *corps* of associates overshadowed me—I was a mere boy to them and felt myself so, and hence was content to remain in the background. However, my whole heart was with my amateur journalistic career, and a

visible improvement in my writings could be noted as each succeeding month rolled by.

PAPERS OF THE YEAR.

The amateur journals published in 1876, at one time were claimed to number nine hundred. I doubt the accuracy of this, but consider five hundred a very fair estimate. Most of these were commenced either during the year or in the one previous. The average life of an amateur journal is about six months. Some live quite a long while, considering the circumstances which govern youths of all and any generation.

The *Tatler* of Albany N. Y. had had an existence of four years and started on its fifth; the *Boys Herald* of Batavia, N. Y. the same. The *Omaha Excelsior*, published by Clemie C. Chase, of Omaha, Neb., was the *oldest* amateur paper in existence at this time, having lived since April, 1877, or five years and over.

The *Tatler* was so named after the first printed paper ever issued, launched by Richard G. Steele. The editor clung to the old style spelling of the word and had to continually explain his apparent bad spelling to the new comers in the ranks, who, uninformed as to his motive, ridiculed him right and left. The *Tatler* was a neat little sheet.

The *Boys Herald* was probably the best known journal ever in the amateur ranks. It consisted of 8 pages, 24 columns, each page about 8 x 10 inches. It was started in 1872 at New Haven, Ct., by English & Hall, and under them won its reputation; in 1875 they suspended it, but in February 1876,

Messrs Pemberton & Johnson of Ansonia, Ct., having purchased the right, once more issued the *Herald*. Johnson retired from the firm in May, and Pemberton published two more numbers, when he was obliged to relinquish its publication. In the fall of 1876, Messrs Mix & Onderdonk, of Batavia, N. Y., recommenced its publication, with C. C. Heuman, J. Winslow Snyder and M. W. Benjamin as associate editors and under their management it ran until in the spring of 1877, when it finally was "laid to rest." The *Herald* was always a good paper and sometimes considered the best in the amateur ranks. But I suspect that the principal reason why it enjoyed so long a life as it did, and fell into the hands of so many different publishers—something unusual, the majority of amateur editors preferring to stamp their originality on a journal even to its name—was due to the fact that the *Herald's* first publishers, English & Hall, had supplied their journal with an engraved heading and several other woodcuts, and their successors in its publication were more influenced by their hopes of obtaining these latter fixtures at a low rate and thus be enabled to embellish their journal, than they were by the *Herald's* own renown.

Another paper that changed hands several times during its career was the *Brilliant* published this year by Mason C. Griggs of Chicago. This journal was started in 1874 at Grand Rapids, Mich., by Will A. Innes, under the name of *The Michigan Amateur* and changed to the *Brilliant* in 1875. Un-

der Innes' ownership it suspended in the latter part of '75, and was revived by C. S. Hartman of Grand Rapids in the spring of '76. Hartman only published two issues and sold out to Griggs, who published the journal until late in the fall, when he had to let it go. The next possessors, were Anderson & Rider of Chicago, who issued the *Brilliant* for about six months. In 1878, Frank L. Seaver, of St. Louis published one edition, and then it disappeared from the arena of Amateur Journalism.

The *Amateur* of Brooklyn, N. Y. was a good sized sheet that was commenced in 1873. It was a sober, staid sort of a journal, with but little boyish frivolity—and less editorial ability—manifested in its columns. Yet it always contained good reading.

The *Budget*, of New York, published by Henry G. Kahrs, and issued semi-monthly, occupied quite a prominent figure at this time, being one of the largest amateur journals and the organ of the New York A. P. A.

The paper that pleased me the most during the year, was the *Amateur Reporter* of Lawrence, Kansas. The *Reporter* was a witty and spicy sheet, well edited and the champion of the West in the controversies that were continually going on as to the relative merit of amateur journals of the different sections.

The *Bee* edited by Henry Walmsly, who claimed to be but twelve years of age, was a remarkably neat little sheet and if the editor was no older than reported, did him a

great deal of credit. His age, however, was made a question of dispute.

The largest copy of an amateur paper issued during the year was the *High School Gazette*, of Providence R. I., which had twenty, three column pages, each page 9 x 12 inches, and cover.

During 1876, Wyndham A. Morris, entered the ranks with the *Monthly Doings*, Frank F. Bassett, the *Clipper*, Howard Scott, the *Rambler*, George W. Hancock, the *Amateur Republican*, Zander Snyder, the *Boys Delight* and Will T. Hall, the *Western Amateur*.

At this time all these amateurs were comparatively obscure, though destined to afterwards become very prominent.

Hallock's Amateur Newspaper Reporter, published from Batavia, N. Y. was modeled after Geo. P. Rowell & Co's well-known *Newspaper Reporter* of New York, and was well received by the amateur fraternity, though its life was short.

The two best known weekly amateur papers were the *Boys Journal*, afterwards *Youth's Progress* of Alexandria, Va., and Ben Newsome's *Young American*. The former was edited with marked ability. Newsome's journal has been spoken of in another place.

By far the prettiest and neatest paper issued during the year was *Our Free Lance*, of New York City. The *Lance* jumped into fame with the start and the *quondam* "King of amateur journals" took rank with the very first, from the commencement. At this time it was a handsome eight page paper, same

size as the *Boys Herald*, printed finely by professional printers, containing articles from none but the best amateur writers and edited with care and ability.

Chicago and Washington, D. C,. had as many as thirty amateur journals published in their limits at one time during the year, and several other cities had large numbers, the "amateur fever" cropping out strong. Rivalry between these points grew quite spirited and the "amateur wars" were numerous, though these controversies were not at all blood-thirsty or ferocious, as the names given them might indicate.

The *Crucible* edited by Clarence G. Allen, of Washington, D. C., created the greatest reputation of any journal of its class, during the year. The *Crucible* was a little sheet of eight pages, each page about 4x6, but was edited in so sprightly a manner that it commanded admiration. Allen, the editor, was something of a poet, and his witty rhymes and epigrams were copied all through the country. His controversies being mainly with older and larger journals of established reputation, his sarcastic attacks were deemed especially audacious, but he usually came out first best. The *Crucible* caused more comment than any journal of its day and had scores of imitators.

John Edson Briggs' *Imp* was another popular journal, also from Washington, that first became well known this year. The *Imp* was a spicy little affair, but with sensible and well written editorials, too. It was published very irregularly, however.

The *Daily Amateur*, published at the Chicago Exposition for one month, by Ledyard and Warner, was the only daily issued during the year, and it was an advertising sheet.

Girl amateur journalists have never been numerous, but this year Libbie L. Adams, of Elmira, N. Y., won considerable notoriety and achieved fame, as publisher of the *Youthful Enterprise*, a large, ten page journal, which, besides editing, she also printed, setting the type and doing her own presswork. She also contributed to the amateur press under the pseudonym of "Nettie Sparkle," her effusions being marked by a choice command of language, well defined thoughts, and poetic imagination. Some of her verses rank among the amateur classics. Libbie was but fifteen years of age at this time and it was hard for the fraternity to believe that she was so young, but all doubts were set at rest, upon the fact being plainly called in question by *Our Free Lance*, by Miss Libbie publishing affidavits over the signatures of well known business men of Elmira, setting forth that her age was as she represented. She certainly was a precocious girl, and the amateur fraternity made much of her.

Miss Delle E. Knapp, of Buffalo, N. Y., also took a prominent part in Amateur Journalism at this time. She was editorially associated upon several amateur journals and was a prolific writer for the mimic press, and under her *nom de plume* of "Loreli," became well known. "The Romance of the Castle Rock," a poem from her pen, was this year

published in pamphlet form and praised by the entire fraternity.

Stewart Bros., of Baltimore, Md., deserve mentioning, as printers of amateur journals, they printing more than any other person or firm in the country, claiming, at one time, to turn off 65 from their press in one month. I can not vouch for the truth of this statement, but they certainly did print a large number, and very badly, too.

BOOKS OF THE YEAR.

The class of literature published during the year in the columns of amateur journals, made its impression upon the book literature that found birth. Amateur books are given the title by courtesy, I suppose, as there are no such things as "books" published by the fraternity. The major part of the publications which are dignified by the high sounding title of book, are miserable little affairs, the contents of which could be placed in thirty pages the size of this, and stitched in a paper cover. These brochures generally contain literary efforts that are supposed to be representative of the author's ability, and more especially so, if they are published by their writer's, themselves. As the amateur press has encouraged this phase of Amateur Journalism, by devoting a portion of its space to reviewing and criticising such pamphlets as are sent them, youths ambitious of fame, and seeking notoriety in other fields with ill-success, have imposed upon the fraternity by publishing ill-starred eight to sixteen page minature books, for the sole purpose of obtaining the criticisms which would be given.

As can be seen, in my own reminiscences, I have been guilty of this same imposition in the publication of "Harry's Combat." During 1876 there were more small pamphlets, similar to it in size, published by amateur journalists, than ever before or since.

At this time, sensational literature was in high favor with the amateur press. Edgar P. Slade, E. R. Hoadley, Jr., and A. N. Demarest were popular writers of this kind of fiction. Besides contributing prolifically to the press, the following pamphlets from their pens appeared this year: "Border Tales," "Dashing Dick," "Red Rifle," and "A Close Call," by Slade; "The Double Dream," by Hoadly, and "Dave and Dolph," and "Edith, the Girl Detective," by Demarest. Slade was advertised as "The Champion Indian Story Writer."

Richard Gerner, always prolific, flooded the amateur press with mss. this year, and the following books from his pen were published: "Fire!" "?" and "The Winning O't." Also "Euchre," quite a large amateur book, purporting to be from the pen of one David Rutzky, was supposed to have been written by Gerner, as it had been pretty clearly proven that he had written other books and allowed Rutzky to sign his name to them.

Jesse Healy was a popular writer at this time, and several of his sketches appeared in pamphlet form during the year. Among these were "Othello," "Theatricals in Castleville," "A Surprise Party" and "Eric." Healy was a good writer and well thought of.

J. A. Fynes, Jr., at that time considered

one of the best writers in the fraternity, had the following books appear under his signature: "Gosh," and "Love's Discovery."

"Yarns from the Night Owl's Chronicles," by "Harry St. Clair," was the largest amateur book issued during the year. "Bunkum County Ballads," by William Hyatt Smith, "W. H. S." and "Amateur Jingles," by "Quince," were two neat little books of poetry, W. H. S. being considered the best poet ever in the ranks, and "Quince" captured the poet laureateship of the National A. P. A. in 1880. The "Irish Wanderer," by E. A. Girvin, and the "Golden Treasure" by Chas. F. Coombs, were two other noteworthy books. Coombs was a Cincinnati boy and was drowned in the Ohio river while taking a swim, while his book was yet in press.

It has been estimated that there were about 300 minature books issued by amateur journalists in 1876, more than ever before or since in one year.

PASSING EVENTS.

Besides the death of Coombs, there also occurred the death of Harry S. Barler, of Illinois, and John H. Barnett, of Texas, while they were yet engaged in Amateur Journalism. Barker was one of the foremost authors in the fraternity and was highly esteemed. The announcement of his death was mourned by many minature journals with inverted column rules and obituary notices. "Feramorz's" (M. W. Benjamin) poem "Harry S. Barler—in memoriam" was widely copied. John H. Barnett was the publisher of the *Texas Boy*, an edition of which

I printed for him in September, but was not widely known.

Will. T. Hall, of the *Western Amateur*, and afterwards president of the National A. P. A., first became widely known in 1876; his attendance at the Philadelphia convention, being one of the few Western boys present, contributed to this but I am inclined to think it was due more to a peculiar mistake of his than anything else. I will mention it as it caused considerable comment. In an editorial in his paper upon "Plagiarism," Hall had the following sentence: "Plagiarism—a little word of seven letters," (!) not only misspelling the word, but also misstating the number of characters it contained. Of course, the amateur critics seized the chance of laughing at Hall, and journal after journal called attention to his orthography and arithmetic. Hall finally tried to explain out of it by claiming the mistake to have been intentional—"an advertising dodge," to use his own words, but that only made matters worse, for now the boys gave him the soubriquet of the "advertising dodger," on every occasion.

Fred. M. Lake, an amateur of San Francisco, Cal., for a long time contributed puzzles and articles to the amateur press under the *nom de plume* of "Jennie M. Lee," and the entire fraternity were deceived as to his gender. The discovery of his sex is supposed to have made some few amateur journalists feel rather foolish, in consequence of the display of gallantry to which they had been prompted.

This reminds me of some other "sells" that were perpetrated upon the boys during the year. Quite a number of bogus advertisements were set afloat, asking "publishers insert above and this for ten cents," and the biters were many. Then, some firm supposed to be in Florida, proposed to give every inserter of their advertisement a "magnificent Yuccafilamontosa,"—whatever that was. Needless to say that those who inserted the advertisement haven't found out yet. Then Henry P. Smith, of Marengo, Ills., took the boys in on an advertisement which wound up with the mystical words, "Mizzled, eh?" Sure enough, everybody was "mizzled." I was bamboozled, on Truax's celebrated advertisement, but that was the first and only time, so I had the satisfaction of laughing at the victims of the other catch advertisements.

I can't close the record of the year, and turn to 1877, without saying something about Chas. K. Farley, "Karl C. Yelraf," of Imlay City, Mich. Farley was undoubtedly the most talented author ever in the ranks and was so esteemed. His articles were not numerous, but they graced the amateur press, and were always welcomed with zest. Of the emanations of his pen, during this year, the "Sad Story of Sackett Say," published in the *Amateur Reporter*, pleased me best. I understood he is now professionally engaged in literary work, and feel sure he is making a success of it.

CHAPTER II.—1877.

By the end of the first week in January, 1877, I had my Indiana Amateur Guide for the year, printed and ready for delivery. It consisted of 36 pages and cover and contained a history of Amateur Journalism in Indiana, names, ages, *nom de plumes*, and addresses of the amateur journalists of the State, names of the papers published, with statement of size, type, date of publication, subscription and advertising rates; etc., list of the books published by resident amateurs with statement of size, binding, author, price, publisher, date, etc., and concluded with a short history of the Indiana A. P. A., altogether forming as complete a State directory as could well be gotten up on the subject. I sold quite a number of copies at ten cents each, and realized enough to pay me for my trouble.

The Guide was well spoken of by the amateur press, a few notices from which, are given below:

"Geo. Harrison's Indiana Amateur Guide has come to hand and is certainly one of the finest compiled directories we have seen. Everything is brief and to the point."—*Literary World*, Feb. 1877.

"One of the best State Amateur Guides which has come to our notice."—Jan. *Youthful Enterprise.*

"An excellent book. The work on the part of the author shows conscientious labor and research. It is the most complete book of the season."—*Keystone Blade*, Erie, Pa.

"An honor to its compiler and printer."—*Young American*, Carbondale, Ills.

"It appears to be the result of much carefully directed labor."—*Youth's Progress*, Alexandria, Va.

"Prodigious in its completeness."—*Monthly Bulletin*, Harrisburg, Pa.

The Guide received forty or fifty notices every one laudatory. "Harry's Combat" and it established my reputation as a book publisher upon a favorable basis. The large number of notices which these two pamphlets received, contributed in a great extent to my reputation, and I already began to be known and spoken of simply as "Harrison," the prefix of my given name being dispensed with. This little thing is, in itself, always indicative of fame, and a sure sign of spreading reputation.

The January issue of the VISITOR was out early in the month. It consisted of twelve pages, twenty-four columns, each page about 6x9. The contents consisted of two poems, by "Karl Kyle" and Oswald C. Ludwig, two sketches, by "Tellie Graff," (C. E. Harney,) and Foster A. Lilly, a "communicated article," a page of book criticisms, five editori-

als, covering nine columns, and fifty-four short items, printed nicely upon heavy book paper, all comprising one of the best issues I ever put out. The editorials were upon "Criticism in Amateurdom," by myself, "Honest Advice," by Mills, "Advertising," by Blood, and "Fulsome Flattery," and "Paris Representation," by Dingwall; Harney failed to furnish his *quoto* for this issue.

My own article dealt with the spirit of toadyism and sycophancy that ever manifests itself in any assemblage of men or boys, and asked for the establishment of a reign of impartial criticism, *sans peur et sans reproche.* Mills' "Honest Advice" was leveled at "Humpty Dumpty," (Richard Gerner) and skillfully laid bare the cause of his unpopularity, in a manner that attracted considerable attention. Whether Gerner took the logic of the article to heart or not, I do not know, for, although a copy of the paper was faithfully sent him, I failed to receive word from the "Hoboken bard." Blood's homily on "Advertising" was short and quite good, though with no points of interest in an amateur journalistic view.

Dingwall's two editorials attracted the greatest attention. "Sandy," as he was familiarly called, took a greater interest in the VISITOR than any of his colleagues and the

letters between us used to fly thick and fast; on one occasion I recollect having received from him three separate epistles in one day. I learned much from him, and our connection together was a pleasant one for me.

Dingwall's "Fulsome Flattery" was a fierce onslaught upon the habit many amateur editors had of bestowing false praise, hollow compliments and puffs, and senseless and prejudiced criticisms; and particularly in point, he cited the abundance of congratulatory and flattering notices given Libbie Adam's *Youthful Enterprise*, some of which were "perfectly sickening in their laudation," to use Sandy's words. The article was copied by other amateur journals and accomplished some good in stemming the current of "fulsome flattery."

The article upon "Paris Representation" was the feature of the paper. *Our Free Lance* was already championing the scheme and no other journal of sufficient prominence to counteract the prestige given by the *Lance's* support, had as yet taken up the gauntlet. The VISITOR, with Dingwall's article, came to the front as the champion for the opposition, and was acknowledged as such. Dingwall ridiculed the idea of a successful representation, called it impracticable, and laughed it out of favor. Stock in the

scheme fell very low after the appearance of the January VISITOR, and finally it died out of recognition.

The short items in this issue of the VISITOR were spicy and vivacious and attracted general attention, and formed subjects for discussion and comment for cotemporary journals. Altogether, this issue gave the paper a vigorous and decided push forward toward the pinnacle of fame and glory.

The VISITOR was immediately exalted to a position among the leading amateur papers of the country, and it gathered power and renown with each succeeding month. While I did not contribute very materially to the literary contents of the VISITOR at this time, yet, as a matter of course, the fame which it obtained, redounded greatly to myself.

"Push on, Harrison. Indiana has a lively amateur in Harrison."—Jan. *Prairie City Gem.*

"By far the most sensible article upon "Paris Representation," is in the last number of the Welcome Visitor."—Jan. *Atlas*, N. Y.

"The Welcome Visitor, LaFayette, Ind., has with its Jan. number, enlarged to twelve pages, twenty-four columns, making it one of the largest and best amateur journals in existence. It contained the most and finest lot of editorials that we have ever had the pleasure of perusing. We most emphatically say that Mr. Harrison has reached the

top round of the ladder. That's *our* opinion." —Feb. *Make or Break*, Omaha.

"The Welcome Visitor champions the opposition to Paris representation, which at present seems to be the popular side."—*Fly.*

Of course the VISITOR made enemies—any outspoken journal, with no fear of frauds or shams, always will. The *Luck and Pluck*, of Jasper, Ind., was a disgraceful little sheet, and in my January issue was the following comment:

Luck and Pluck are good things to have, but we would want something better than that of Jasper, Ind."

Now notice the effect of the above.

"Harrison, of the Welcome Visitor, wants to set an example for amateur editors to follow. Editors who follow his example are ——fools..... Were we in Humpty Dumpty's place, we would tell Geo. Harrison to mind his own business,"—Feb. *Luck and Pluck.*

The February, or thirteenth issue of the VISITOR, had but eight pages. A sketch by "Karl C. Yelraf," the best amateur author in the ranks, a report of the first convention of the Western A. P. A., held at Omaha, Neb., Jan 10th, written by Will. T. Hall, four editorials, book reviews, and twenty-two short items, completed the contents. With this issue, Mills relinquished his associate editorship on account of lack of time.

Of the editorials, Dingwall wrote one on

"Biographical Bosh," wherein he leveled a blow at the many auto-biographical sketches of amateur journalists, which were flooding the press, and condemned and ridiculed their publication in the strongest language. I quote one paragraph:

"An editor who has the slightest regard for the welfare of his journal, who has any feelings of respect for his subscribers, and who is the possessor of a grain of common sense, will never allow his paper to be prostituted and himself shamefully misrepresented, by the publication of such miserable and egotistical exaggerations as these "biographies of prominent amateurs" usually are. Neither will any amateur who is not cursed with that abominable conceit, arrogance and self importance, permit these virtually cracked little boys to publish a so-called biography of himself."

Blood contributed an editorial upon "Amateurdom in England," wherein he drew comparisons with its existence there and in this country.

Harney's article was an able argument on "Criticism vs. Abuse," and called attention to the fact that the latter was often inadvertently substituted for the former, by both the amateur and professional press. The advice tendered was as follows:

"To show by fair argument that a person's opinions are erroneous, or his measures un-

wise—to place this vividly before his mind and that of the public, while treating the person himself with scrupulous respect, will influence that person in the critic's favor, and at the same time command his attention and respect. It is given in a kindly spirit and in such it is taken."

The VISITOR was by far the best amateur paper in Indiana at this time. The *Young Folk's Friend*, of Loogootee, Ind., was larger than my paper, but manifested no particular ability in its editorial columns. In the January VISITOR, the following notice of it was inserted:

"The *Young Folk's Friend*, for so large a paper, does not amount to much, being all sketches or advertisements, without a word of editorial."

This criticism did not seem to be appreciated by the editor of the *Friend*, and in his January issue he made several attacks upon the VISITOR, from some of which I quote:

"Geo. Harrison, editor of the Welcome Visitor has given way to jealousy at last. You see, Georgie is ambitious and wishes, only too earnestly, to place his paper at the head of the Hoosier amateur ranks . . . George being of an unforgiving and revengeful nature waited for a chance to catch us napping, so as to give us a 'killing cut.' Our press being out of order last month, our paper was not printed as neatly as usual and George takes occasion to revenge himself. By laying the January numbers of the Welcome Visitor and

the *Friend* side by side—'Welcome Visitor' —Ugh!"

I replied to these attacks in the February VISITOR, in a two column editorial, headed "We are Bull dozed! The publisher of the Welcome Visitor accused of being Ambitious, Jealous, Revengeful and Unforgiving! Arthur C. O'Brien, of the *Young Folk's Friend* the Accuser. A Series of Untruthful Assertions," and attacked the *Friend* so strongly and successfully, that it had nothing more to say, thereafter. My reply was written in a spicy manner and was considered good reading by some editors, but just imagine how I felt, when the *Boys' Herald* reached me with the following comment:

"The Welcome Visitor should publish more of Dingwall's articles and muzzle the fellow who devotes two columns to a personal attack."

All the flattering comments made upon the article paled into insignificance before the blow from the *Herald*, and the only consolation I had was the acknowledged defeat of the *Friend*. I was not satisfied with myself nor my share of reputation, and to ease my mind in some degree, I published a little four page, eight column paper, each page size about 4x6 inches, which I named the *Dauntless*. It was issued with "Nameless" as editor, the first time I ever used the *nom de*

plume, and contained, among other things, several outrageous puffs of my books and of the VISITOR. Being issued anonymously, the *Dauntless* attracted attention, and suspicion fell upon me as its editor from the very start. My style of printing was too well known for a successful disguise, and the knowledge of Amateur Journalism shown in the editorial columns, was too great to be that of a novice. The following are a few comments made at the time:

"The Dauntless is the name of a neat and interesting little journal; truly it is a *welcome visitor*. Oh, Harrison, how could you be so wicked!"—*Amateur Era*, Washington, D. C.

"Wonder if the editor of the Dauntless is any relation to the editor of the Welcome Visitor? Please enlighten us on that subject, George."—*Amateur Optimist*.

"Who is the editor of the Dauntless—is it Geo. Harrison?"—*Bugle*, Indianapolis.

The *Dauntless*' editorial upon the custom of amateur editors in following leaders, rather than depending upon their own, individual judgement, was reprinted by two or three contemporaries. Of course, I was highly pleased at this.

In February, my first contribution to other papers than my own, was printed in the *Young Folk's Friend*, in the shape of a sketch, entitled "A Barring Out," which was

sent in competition for a money prize offered by the *Friend's* publisher. The sketch did not take the prize, but was deemed good enough for publication.

During February, I printed another number of Severson's *Boys' Journal*, he having become partially enthused again. The *Journal* was a re echo of the VISITOR upon all the principal topics of discussion by the amateur fraternity.

Upon Feb. 22nd, the third semi-annual convention of the Indiana A. P. A., was held at Indianapolis. The day previous, "armed with about fifty VISITORS, an overcoat, and several miscellaneous articles, we boarded the train for the Capital City of Indiana," (quoting from my report), and spent the intervening time pleasantly in the company of the Indianapolis amateurs. The morning of the 22nd found us at the depot, awaiting the coming of visiting amateurs, and soon I had the pleasure of meeting Duddleston, of the *Hoosier Boy*, Whitaker, of the *Prairie City Gem*, and Muse, of the *News*, all of Terre Haute, and Hardy, Moffett, Hereth, and others, whom I had met before, until some fifteen youthful amateur journalists were gathered in the old depot's walls. How our tongues did fly! How we laughed at Severson for comparing his watch with the old dummy railroad clocks!

There was quite a difference in my standing in the amateur fraternity at the present time to that which I had at the time of the first convention. Then I was unknown. The mention of my name *might* have provoked the inquiry, "Who the devil is he?" Now it was acknowledged that I was the most active and best known amateur in the State. Thus rapidly does Amateurdom's kaleidoscope revolve.

The convention was held in the city Council Chambers, the use of which had been obtained. Altogether, there were fifteen amateurs in attendance, one of whom was Frank M. Morris, who, like myself a year previous, had as yet not been a contributor to the press, and was in attendance only as a spectator. Learning of his expressed intention of becoming an amateur journalist, I suggested to Morris that he join the association then and there, which he did.

At this convention I was on the floor continually, during the transaction of miscellaneous business, and nearly all original motions and resolutions introduced were made by myself. Amateur journalists usually do not attend a press convention with intentions of doing any work, but with the expectation and hope some one else will take the labor off their hands; I had, however, pre-

vious to leaving LaFayette, primed myself full, and in consequence was able to keep the convention busy.

I introduced one resolution, which came near making the Association famous. The New York A. P. A. had apparently arrogated to itself the power of the appointment of the next date for the meeting of the National A. P. A., and the amateurs of the West had raised quite a row about it, being tolerably vexed that the convention was not held in the West, besides. In complicity with this feeling, my resolution was as follows:

Resolved: that we, the members of the Indiana A. P. A., having power equal to that of the New York A. P. A., do hereby proclaim Indianapolis, Ind., as the next meeting place of the National Association, and that the time be July 4th, 1877."

This caused a good deal of comment, and the Indiana Association gained much notoriety. Eastern editors abused it in decided terms, while the West, generally, upheld it.

Finally, when in answer to president Perrin's inquiry, "Have you any more miscellaneous business, Mr. Harrison?" I replied in the negative, the election of officers was proceeded with. I had some ambition, at this time, to become president of the Indiana A. P. A., and it was intended between Perrin, Huey and myself, to have my name presente

to the convention as a candidate for that position. Upon nominations for president becoming in order, Wells moved that Frank S. Hereth be elected by acclamation, and this move so startled the boys that my nomination was forgotten. Hereth was elected by a vote of eight to three.

Lon C. Duddleston was elected vice-president, Richard Muse, secretary, and Oscar L. Huey, treasurer. In the contest for the secretaryship, Muse and Hardy were candidates, and upon a ballot being taken, each received four votes, leaving the casting vote with president Perrin. Our embarrassed president did not like to make a choice, and finally flipped up a penny, head, Hardy wins, tail, Muse. Tail it was, and Muse received the honor by this new and dignified interpretation of "Cushing."

After the convention, upon the call for a "speech," I delivered a few extemporaneous and disjointed remarks upon the question of "Degeneration," which were afterwards more mercifully spoken of by my hearers than they deserved. However, it had been greatly through my endeavors and activity that the convention was anything like a success, and I suppose the boys thought I deserved leinency.

"Mr. Harrison, being moved by the spirit,

arose and addressed the honorable body upon the subject, "Is Amateurdom Degenerating.' The speech was well delivered and well received, the speaker being interrupted several times by calls for more paper."—*Hoosier Boy.*

It has always been a puzzle to me whether the demands made for "more paper," were for the purpose of taking notes, or for manufacturing paper-wads, which some irreverent youngsters were doing.

"After the election, Mr. Harrison made a most eloquent sermon, taking for a text, "Is Amateurdom Degenerating?' and proved conclusively that it is *not* degenerating in the least."—*Prairie City Gem.*

And the following from Morris' *Duke's Spirit:*

"We started to write an editorial on "Amateurdom degenerating," but since we heard Harrison's speech upon the same subject, we desist. Yes, George made a speech before that most august assembly, the Ind. A. P. A. which was attentively listened to by——nobody. He was frequently met with showers of applause. (We meant paper-wads.) *** Here Harrison discovered that several of the members were laying over the desks, their tongues lolling from their mouths, eyes starting from their sockets, and a look of dying despair protuded all over their faces; one member hung over the back of his chair, looking as worn out as a last year's overcoat. Then Moffett, recovering from his stupor,

rose slowly, and walked towards George, and in a penitent voice asked him what foul wrong, what injury they had ever done him that they should be punished thusly. There was a wild startled look in George's eyes for a moment, and then—but it is too effecting; we draw the veil."

A few convention squibs from various papers are quoted below. They give the humor of the meeting:

"If one of the waiters hadn't stopped Hardy, he would have *gone up the back stairs*, through a $500 mirror in one of the Indianapolis oyster bays.... We don't intend to say that Severson was drunk, but when a person goes out and compares his watch with about two dozen time charts, in a railroad depot, we think it looks suspicious.... What candidate only had two votes and voted one himself?.... The X president wasn't rattled, but when he tried to wipe the perspiration off his honest brow with an inkstand, some of the members thought so."

The report of the convention in the March VISITOR was the only complete one published. The great amount of job work I had, threw the publication of this issue behind time, and it did not appear until in April, and then only in a four page form. The contents consisted of the convention report, which covered five columns, an editorial upon *Nom de Plumes*, by Harney, and short items, not comprising a very interesting number to any

but Indiana amateur journalists. With this issue, I ceased to publish the VISITOR for some time, my business of job printing rushing me too hard, but I intended to still keep up the *Dauntless.* Upon the avowel of my intentions, my associate editors all expressed great regret, and Dingwall proposed that if the VISITOR'S suspension was due to financial trouble, that he and the others of the staff would contribute pecuniarly to its continuation.

During March I printed the *Boys' Journal* and the *Southern Spark*, the latter from Knoxville, Tenn.

The following are some of the notices relative to myself that were published in March:

"The Dauntless is a new one from LaFayette; it is first-class and suits us exactly, but are not two papers too much for you, Geo?" —*Make or Break.*

"The editor of the Dauntless thoroughly understands how to conduct an amateur journal."—*News Letter.*

"Welcome Visitor comes as ever, thinking itself the boss."—*Luck and Pluck.*

"The Dauntless is small but good."—*North Carolina Amateur.*

These comments upon the *Dauntless* pleased me a great deal, as it was all of my own writing, and I had more reason to attribute the praise to myself, individually, than

I had with the comments upon the VISITOR. So I came to the conclusion that if a young amateur desires to obtain any reputation and fame, it is best for him to be the sole editor of his paper. Where a new and inexperienced amateur journalist places well-known amateurs as associate editors upon his sheet, any literary reputation which it may gain is apt to be attributed to the older heads at work on it, and the publisher will sink in the background.

During April I printed for their publishers, the *Windy Courier*, *Duke's Spirit*, *Newsboy*, *Aurora*, and *Buckeye Amateur Herald*. The *Windy Courier* was published by Perrin and Huey, and with the *Duke's Spirit*, Frank M. Morris entered Amateur Journalism, the "inwardness" of which he had not yet comprehended.

The April *Dauntless* was also issued. I had an article inserted, purporting to be a communication from myself, (as the *incognito* of "Nameless" was still maintained) in reference to a certain so-called "Western Amateur Reformer's League," run by one F. W. Van Deren, who had written me a bull-dozing letter, and my communication was an answer to this. Come to find out, however, this "League" was a myth, and the bull-dozing letters a mere practical joke, played not

only on myself, but also on other amateurs.

Besides my communication, the *Dauntless*, also contained a department criticising specimens of amateur printing, under the head of *Type and Ink*, short items, mostly containing puns, and my first editorial upon the "N. A. P. A." Since the convention of July the existence of the Association had been comparatively unnoticed, until within a few weeks previous, when Richard Gerner announced himself as a candidate for the presidency, in the *Prairie City Gem*, and in two or three other journals, and his nomination for the office by the Empire City A. P. A., the *Prairie City Gem* and other papers. Then the Carbondale *Young American* nominated Chas. C. Heuman of New York, in opposition to Gerner, and Heuman was strongly and vigorously supported by many papers. The *Dauntless*' editorial did not deal with the campaign for offices, however —it referred to the selection of Long Branch, N. J., as the place for the second convention of the National A. P. A., and denounced it as sectional and unfair to the West; and laboring under the impression that the Association was being manipulated by Eastern amateurs solely to their own interests, (an impression also held by Biehn's *Composing Stick* and other Western journals) I suggested that an-

other association be formed that would be more National in character, if not in name. This portion of the editorial is as follows:

"Amateurs of the West and South, the National Association is National in name, only. It will not recognize our rights. Therefore we must support them, ourselves. We need a United States A. P. A.—one that will show impartiality to East, South and West, alike A convention held at Indianapolis or Cincinnati would be the right thing in the right place. Let us hold one. This opinion is not only *ours*, but of ALL the amateurs of the West with whom we have come in contact. It is a decided opinion that such a meeting would be highly beneficial; therefore, fellow amateurs, we hereby call a meeting of amateur journalists, to be held in Cincinnati (as the most conveniant place for Southern amateurs,) on July 4th, 1877, for the purpose of organizing a United States A. P. A. Cincinnati amateurs will make arrangements for the room, etc. A large attendance will be secured, and satisfaction will be given to all except those few discontented dodgers who will uphold the National association in the hope of getting office."

This attracted attention, and the idea was supported by a number of Western amateurs. A "split" seemed on the *tapis*, but the promises of fair-play upon the part of the East, and of the next National convention, tided over the division. Eastern editors attacked the *Dauntless* in particular and Western am-

ateurs in general for trying to destroy the Association, and the two great sections of the country, as represented by amateur journalistic scribes, engaged in an invective controversy.

The May *Dauntless* still clung to its idea, though in a modified form. It now advocated the formation of an Inter-State A. P. A., excluding the East entirely, and nominated Geo. W. Biehn, of the *Composing Stick*, for the presidency. But the National A. P. A. campaign was now the subject of absorbing interest. Heuman had resigned, re-accepted a nomination, and resigned again in favor of Gerner, and Alex. W. Dingwall, my former associate editor, was placed in nomination by Heuman's former supporters for the position. The discontented West was appeased, and the embryo rival of the National, that might have been, never saw the light of day.

The May *Dauntless*, besides its Inter-State editorial proposition, contained a "Type and Ink" department, covering four columns, book reviews, short items, etc. In an advertisement I announced the contemplated publication of a new book, "Tales," by various amateur authors, which never appeared. This issue did not amount to much, being entirely too small to allow much display of ability.

Some of the notices referring to myself and papers, received in May, are subjoined:

"Died, at LaFayette, on April 15th, the Welcome Visitor, of enlargement of the system."— *Windy Courier.*

"The Welcome Visitor, of LaFayette, is remarkable for its unexceptionably fine editorials, which does not seem so wonderful when we note the names of Dingwall, Harney and Blood on its staff. A hundred young amateur editors have made the same discovery, and the articles that appear in the Visitor, rehashed, condensed, and generally badly injured, reappear as original editorials, without ever a word of acknowledgement, in scores of those nasty little papers that disgrace the 'Dom."—"Feramorz," in *Le Critique.*

The *News Letter*, of Cleveland, Ohio, this month printed a wood cut caricaturing myself, but it pleased rather than vexed me. As one amateur writer has said, "the amateur editor is pleased to receive a puff, but is elevated to the pinacle of pleasure when a cotemporary devotes a column to blow him up and run him down."

No June issue of the *Dauntless* was issued, but upon June 15th, Will. Davidson and I started the DAILY VISITOR, in four page, four column form, which had the long life of two days, and was never mailed to the amateur fraternity.

In June I printed the *Windy Courier*, and

the *Newsboy*; in the latter journal was a short essay from my pen on the "Unstability of Amateurdom."

The July *Dauntless* was issued early in the month and contained the opening chapters of a serial entitled "Fame and Fortune," which was to be written each chapter alternately by myself, under the *nom de plume* of "Nameless," W. E. Davidson and Frank Greenlee, "Max Merwood," an idea that had been used before. This serial attracted some attention, on account of its peculiarity and received a few notices, one of which, from the *Monthly Review* of Cincinnati, is given:

"Fame and Fortune,' by three amateur authors, opens in the July issue of the Dauntless. The first chapter, by 'Nameless,' is *good*, being well written and interesting. If the succeeding chapters are up to the standard of the first, it will be a splendid serial."

This issue of the paper was enlarged somewhat and contained short editorials on "Punctuality" and the "Campaign;" in the latter I attacked the course persued by the opponents of Richard Gerner, in defaming his character. I extract paragraphs from articles:

"*Anything* to beat Gerner should not be the cry. If you beat him, vanquish him in a fair, honorable, gentlemanly manner. * * * We are no partizan of Gerner's. We would

as soon see Dingwall president as Gerner, every bit. But if Dingwall is elected, we wish to see him placed in the presidential chair by fair play, that sentiment which should be emplanted in the breast of every American boy."

"Fault-finding amateur editors seem never to think that their dilatory brethern are only mortal, and that they stand as great a chance of getting sick or going off on a fishing excursion as any other person We again admit that punctuality with amateur papers is desirable, but emphatically cry down the idea that it is to be expected ever and eternally."

The short items published were spicy, and I received several letters complimenting me on this issue of the journal.

Nearly every amateur editor had taken sides in the campaigns of the National and Western A. P. A.'s, and my non partizanship was the cause of some remark. The *Prairie City Gem*, probably with the desire of provoking a controversy, had the following to say about my stand:

"Geo. Harrison, as editor of the Dauntless, displays the most remarkable 'on the fence' principles we have yet encountered. He favors all the candidates now running for the presidency of the National A. P. A., and thinks Bartlett and Chase are about a stand off. The truth of it is, he is afraid to support either party for fear of offending some one."

My interest in these political quarrels at this time *was* little, and I had to become individually interested in their result before I engaged in them. Besides this fact, I was indignant with the previous manipulation of the National Association, and the Western's convention, which was to be held at Davenport, Iowa, was too far off for me to attend, and the Association, itself, had not as yet received much interest from amateurs of my own State, having hitherto been "run" by the amateurs of the far West.

The news of the defeat of Gerner and the election of Dingwall at Long Branch and the triumph of Chase over Bartlett, interested me but little, and I had neither applause nor hisses to greet the successful candidates.

In July I printed a 32 page amateur book entitled "A Strange Discovery," written by myself under the usual *nom de plume* of "Nameless." It was a sensational story in four chapters, and had been written one afternoon between the hours of one and six, and published, as the preface frankly stated, to obtain the criticisms which would be given it. Let some of these speak for themselves:

"A Strange Discovery is a tale, which, tho' slightly improbable, can hardly be called a sensational one. The language and style of expression is very pleasing and smacks of real talent."—*Buckeye Herald.*

"The language generally is good and the descriptions natural and life-like."—*Hoosier Boy.*

"It is told in an able manner."—*Empire City Amateur.*

"The writer of this book is a talented author and well-known in the amateur ranks. Although he has published a great many interesting stories, we think this is decidedly his best."—*Our American Youth.*

The flattering comments and notices made upon the July *Dauntless*, and my book, revived my desire to become a leader in the amateur journalistic field and in August I determined to reissue the WELCOME VISITOR; an announcement to this effect was made in the August *Dauntless*, which was of the same size of the first issues, and contained little but the second chapter of "Fame and Fortune," by "Max Merwood," and an editorial showing up the fraudulent practices of many so called advertising agents.

Persuant to my plan, in the latter part of August I reissued the VISITOR in four page, twelve column form, each page the same size as the Jan.–Feb. numbers. This issue contained the third chapter of "Fame and Fortune," by Nameless, an explanatory editorial, wherein I consolidated the *Dauntless* with the VISITOR, book criticisms, "Type and Ink" department, etc. As I happened to have

plenty of leisure time, in the next two weeks I printed two more issues of the VISITOR, each four pages and dated September. These contained the fourth, fifth and sixth chapters of "Fame and Fortune," by Davidson, Greenlee and myself, editorials upon "Amateur Papers," and East vs. West," short items, etc. These three issues of the VISITOR appearing one after the other in two weeks, were widely spoken of. My writings had greatly improved since the VISITOR had suspended in April, and in consequence my paper had not apparently degenerated in ability, or at least not to the marked extent which the retirement of my associates from the editorial staff might have been supposed to cause. The editorial, "East vs. West," was in particular calculated to cause comment, being upon the relative superiority of the Western and Eastern amateur journals, and in supposed reliable figures, giving the palm to the West. As a matter of course, this assertion was disputed by Eastern editors, and Western journals joining with me in defence of their section, a controversy was inaugurated which speedily assumed wide-spread proportions, and nearly every journal in the entire country had something to say upon the subject. Of course, as the originator of the controversy, the VISITOR'S name was

mixed up throughout. Then the large number of short, spicy items which were published in these three numbers, relative to amateur subjects, aided in spreading the paper's fame. Some were copied, commented upon, criticised; the puffs given to other journals were returned in kind—the abuse reciprocated. And, by the way, let me remark that it is these same short items, paragraphs, condensed editorials, that make the fame of an amateur journal when written in the proper manner. They must be spicy, witty, or sharply critical to attract attention, and if all three, fame is sure.

I also contributed an essay to Newsome's *Young American*, in September, on "Public *vs.* Private Life," which was afterwards replied to in the columns of the same paper, by Clarence P. Dresser, of Chicago, and rewritten upon by myself. *Le Critique*, of New York, also contained a sketch, "A Fortunate Catasthrope," from my pen.

With the October VISITOR I date the beginning of my own popularity as an editorial writer, as it was with this number I created the first decided *hit*, the credit of which could redound only upon myself. This issue of the paper was of eight pages, printed nicely upon tinted paper on new long primer old style type, and contained a charming lit-

tle sketch, "Goin'-a-Courtin'," by "Tellie Graff," an essay upon "Epochs," by myself, three editorials, on "The Coming Campaign," "Unworthy Wit," and "Impartial Criticisms," book reviews, criticisms of amateur authors and their works, under the head of "Author's Nook," and short items under the head of "Grapeshot," "A L'Abandon," and "Condensed Editorials." Also the nomination of Frank M. Morris for the presidency of the Indiana A. P. A., all making a very creditable number, indeed, and one which received nothing but encomiums.

My essay was copied by several cotemporaries, and this issue received more press notices, more comments and criticisms (all flattering, tho') than any two previous numbers I had ever published.

Of the editorials, "The Coming Campaign" dealt with that of the National A. P. A. for 1878, which was already being pushed by enthusiastic journalists. Correl Kendall, of Boston, Mass., had been nominated for the presidency, and the tenor of the editorial was in opposition to his election, and in advising the delay of the campaign.

"Unworthy Wit" attacked the custom of punning, which had become so inordinately in use. One sentence is quoted:

"Evidently the perpetrators of these mon-

strosities think that 'a pun is a pun,' and that one should be relished, however bad. They may, perhaps, succeed in raising a smile, but that smile is not at the wittiness of the pun, but at the absurdity of it."

The editorial upon "Impartial Criticism," should have been termed "Partial Criticism," as it attacked two amateurs, Ed. P. Mickle, of Kansas, and Arthur J. Huss, of Ohio, for being influenced, in the criticism of some of my books, by other reasons than their merits or demerits.

"At last Harrison comes out in the style of yore, with eight pages brim full of interesting articles. We refer to the Welcome Visitor."—Oct. '77 *Inland Amateur.*

"The Welcome Visitor of Lafayette, Ind., is truly a model paper. Its monthly contents are splendid."—*Amateur Inspector,*

"Welcome Visitor has reappeared and is one of the best papers now published."—*Youth's Progress.*

"From Lafayette comes the Welcome Visitor, a handsome eight page publication, edited and printed by Geo. Harrison, who has obtained some renown. Its contents are first class."—*Empire City Amateur.*

Other notices compared this issue of the VISITOR favorably with any of the numbers preceding, and it was asserted to be one of the very few *best* papers in the ranks.

Up to this time I had not contributed much to any amateur journals except my own, but

what little I had written had been so favorably received that I was seized with the ambition of achieving fame as an amateur author. Distrusting my popularity and wishing to test the matter, I inserted in the October VISITOR an advertisement to the effect that all amateur publishers of well printed papers, by applying before the expiration of thirty days, would receive an article from the pen of "Nameless," free. I had written some few articles in the mean time, expecting a slight demand, and was greatly astonished on the second day after the paper had been mailed to receive seven or eight orders. The third day I received about fourteen, the fourth day, *nineteen*, and before the month expired, over sixty different editors had asked for contributions from my pen. Such an ovation could not help but please me, especially as the publishers of some of the best and most select journals issued, were among the applicants. Suffice it to say that each and every order was filled, and for a time, "Nameless" seemed prolific, indeed. So many of my articles appearing in the columns of the amateur press, as a matter of course the writer was given considerable attention, and soon accorded a place among the rising amateur *litterateurs* of the day.

My first attempts at rhyming were made

at this time, because I found it easier some days to draft a short "poem," than to write an elaborate essay or sketch. The first piece of poetry (?) ever printed from my pen, appeared in the *Lilliputian*, of New York, and was entitled "The Girl You Love." This was the forerunner of any number of miserable attempts.

Although I had reason to be satisfied with my own work on the VISITOR, in an editorial capacity, yet I was induced to again offer the position of associate editor to Alex. W. Dingwall, partly because I wished to have the president of the National A. P. A. on the staff of my journal, and besides I felt very friendly towards him for the interest he had manifested in the VISITOR.

Dingwall accepted, but requested me, as a favor, not to print his name on my staff, as he wished to be able to reply to some of the attacks being made on him, in his official capacity, and promised articles which would create sensations and cause the VISITOR to rise into prominence, and at the same time asserted he would not divulge their authorship (as indeed, he could not very well,) and requested me also not to do so. I was not fully satisfied with this proposition, but agreed to it, partly for his sake and partly for the reason of noting whether his effusions

would be more remarked than my own, while their authorship was attributed to myself.

In the November VISITOR, Dingwall contributed an editorial, headed "To Gerner, Kahrs, et al," wherein he answered attacks made upon him by partizans of these amateurs, and reattacked in a most sarcastic and bitter manner, and at the same time shoving in considerable praise of "president Dingwall." Several short items which were also from his pen, were of the same tenor.

The November VISITOR was of six pages, and contained, besides Dingwall's articles, two essays, by "Alex. Alvan," (Ben Newsome) and "Clifton," (J. C. Worthington), the continuation of "Fame and Fortune," short items, etc., and two editorials, one on "Campaign Views," giving the aspects of the impending National A. P. A. yearly fight for the offices, and "More Prejudice," wherein *Our American Youth* was attacked for some unfounded statements it had made.

The coming campaign was of great interest to me, the convention to be held at Chicago, not so very far away from my own home, and I expected to attend. Being a Western amateur, and a probable participator in the convention, I was the recipient of a large number of letters from friends of

different candidates, requesting my support. Correl Kendall, of Boston, was already in the field, as an aspirant for the presidency of the National A. P. A., but I was opposed to him because I did not think him of sufficient prominence to deserve the office.

My attack upon *Our American Youth* for allowing prejudice to sway its judgment, brought forth a long reply, wherein the writer defended himself, but in an unsatisfactory manner, and not covering the grounds upon which he was accused.

In November I received a letter from the Cook Bros., of Waterloo, Iowa, asking me to accept the nomination for the first vice presidency of the Western A. P. A. This letter awakened a new ambition. I had not previously considered myself in the light of a possible candidate for office, but this epistle gave me a fresh train of thought. Wyndham A. Morris, of Davenport, Iowa, publisher of the *Monthly Doings*, had been nominated for the presidency of the Western Association as had also Nate Cole, of the St. Louis *Acorn*, and Chas. Bunce, of Omaha, Neb., and Geo. W. Hancock, of Chicago, had been spoken of in connection with the office. For the vice presidency, Frank L. Webster, of the *Amateur Reporter*, Lawrence, Kansas, had been nominated.

The nominees for the presidency were not more prominent or better known than myself in my own estimation, and the idea struck me that I might successfully rival any of them in the race for the office. The previous contest between Chase and Bartlett had been very bitter and interesting and the two candidates received a great many notices. This fact, more than any other, was the great inducement offered to enter the lists as a candidate, and I resolved to do so. I wrote to the Cook brothers and several other Western amateur journalists, announcing the fact that I would probably be a candidate for the presidency, and asking them how they thought my prospects would be for support in their immediate neighborhood. Several wrote encouragingly and my canvass immediately commenced.

The fourth convention of the Indiana A. P. A. being held at Terre Haute on the 29th of November, I determined to be present and embrace the opportunity of doing some campaign work in my own favor. On the 28th I went to Indianapolis and met the boys there. Perrin and Huey had nominated me for the presidency of the Indiana association in their last *Windy Courier*, but I declined to run, and induced them to support Morris, who, by the way, had all four of us passed

free over the road to Terre Haute, where we went together on the morning of the 29th, Thanksgiving day—coldest day of the year, too. Upon reaching our destination, we were met by a crowd of enthusiastic amateurs, among whom were Whitaker, Rupe, Sam Young, Hardy, Wells, Bradbury, Muse, Fisbeck and others, besides five amateurs from Mattoon, Illinois, who had come over to see how their Indiana brethern "did things." At 2 o'clock the convention was called to order in the Council chambers of the city, vice president Duddleston in the chair, with over thirty amateurs present, the largest number ever in attendance at a convention of the association.

My own work at this meeting was greatly similar to that at the preceding. I had drafted a Constitution and by-laws, which were accepted with one or two slight alterations, and now for the first time in its existence of two years, the association had a constitution of its own.

Resolutions were passed condemning the various candidates for the N. A. P. A. presidency, in so early publishing their letters of acceptance and inaugurating the campaign, and endorsing Cincinnati as the next place of meeting for the National, also denouncing the "East vs. West" controversy; other res-

olutions were also introduced by myself and were carried.

The Terre Haute amateurs had formed a combination which resulted in the election of Duddleston to the presidency and Muse to the vice presidency, defeating my nominees. The VISITOR was unanimously elected official organ.

An address to the Association, from Dingwall, which I had brought with me, was read, containing a plan for "general representation," in the National Association's elections. After that Morris read a long poem, entitled "Retrospection," and I followed with an essay upon "Serials in Amateur Papers," arguing for their place in the columns of journals large enough to contain reasonable enstalments.

After the business of the Association had been transacted, the mayor of the city, Mr. Fairbanks, made a short address, complimenting the members of the Association on their general decorum and parliamentary ability, and then tendered the members the freedom of the city.

The amateurs of Terre Haute, after the adjournment of the convention, performed a one act farce, "An Editor's Troubles," at Harmonia hall, which excited some amusement. The doings of the day wound up

with a banquet at a principal restaurant, to which everyone did full justice, and after that all repaired in a body to the opera house to see the comedy-drama of "Our Boarding House."

I broached the subject of my candidacy for the presidency of the Western A. P. A., and received flattering assurances of support from the amateurs present at the convention. *Gabriel's Horn*, edited by Chas. F. Whitaker, of Terre Haute, immediately placed my name in nomination, as follows:

"Harrison is in our opinion the representative amateur of Indiana, hence in due honor of this, we nominate him for the presidency of the Western A. P. A."

This placed me finally in the field, and the fact being recognized, I was the subject of a great deal of comment in connection with the office. Wyndham A. Morris had already obtained quite a large number of supporters, and I soon saw that the contest would center between he and I.

The December VISITOR was of eight pages and contained the continuation of "Fame and Fortune," a short poem by "Nameless," a long and complete report of the convention of the Indiana A. P. A., short notes, an editorial upon the "Coming Campaign," by Dingwall, and one upon "Amateur Ignor-

ance," by myself. The latter referred to the lack of parliamentary knowledge shown by amateur attendants at conventions.

Dingwall's editorial reviewed the appearance of the campaign, with a leaning toward Kendall in preference to J. W. Snyder, (Winslow) who had been suggested as a candidate for re-election, and Will. T. Hall, of the *Western Amateur*, Chicago. Hall was strongly attacked, as also was the policy of all three candidates in so early publishing their letters of acceptance.

The VISITOR was now attracting attention as to its political views, and was, indeed, called a "political sheet." Its opposition to Kendall and Hall caused it to be fiercely attacked by friends of these candidates, and I received many letters, trying to win my support for one or the other.

During December the *Keystone Magazine* commenced the publication of a ten chaptered serial, "Adventures in Hayti," written by myself, and sold for *fifty cents*, "enough to pay postage." At this rate of payment, it can be seen that I was not exactly on the road to accumulate a fortune from my literary productions.

PAPERS OF THE YEAR.

The amateur papers of 1877 were probably not quite so numerous as in the preced-

ing year, but there was more general excellence shown, I think. The "war" which had been inaugurated in the latter part of 1876 against the "thumb-nail" sheets which were published for "exchanges only," by youths who had not enough ambition, talent or energy to issue creditable and commendable publications, had been the cause of driving from the ranks many of this class of journals.

Our Free Lance, of New York City, enlarged early in the year to 8 pages, 32 columns, each page about 10x14 inches, and was soon called the "King of Amateur Journals," and acknowledged to surpass anything in the ranks and rival the best journals of former years. It was issued until after the National's convention in July, and had the best and most complete report of that meeting ever published, but the issue containing the report did not appear until late in the year, and after all others had been printed. The *Lance* was the chief opponent of Gerner and the champion of Dingwall, whom it lead to victory.

Ben Wasserman's *Keystone* was well-known and was first published from Baltimore; afterwards from New York. Wasserman was very diminutive in statue, but he had some brains under his hat. The *Keystone* was small, but being set in nonpareil type, it contained considerable matter.

The *High School Budget*, of Providence, R. I., was a very large amateur paper, but never of any particular prominence.

The *Monthly Souvenir*, of Pittsburg, Pa., was noted for its general neat appearance;

this year it enlarged to 24 columns, but then soon suspended, a common destiny of amateur journals when an extra strain is placed on their publishers' time and pocket-book.

Of magazines, J. C. Worthington, of Philadelphia, issued the best—the *Literary World*, which had 16 pages and cover, and its contents comprised articles from the best writers in the fraternity. As a magazine, however, the *World* soon suspended, its publisher engaging professionally in business.

A new departure was made by Fred M. Cornell, of New York, an amateur of '72 '73, who re-entered the ranks with the *Ecko*, an eclectic journal, publishing the best amateur writings of former years.

Correl Kendall's *Miscellany* excited attention, as, being conducted by several amateurs of wide-spread reputation, it was expected to show unusual excellence, which hope was disappointed, as the *Miscellany* was never anything but mediocre. Its championship of Dingwall against Gerner gave it some notoriety, as it was the first paper to hoist Dingwall's name as its candidate.

Our American Youth, of Washington, D. C., for a short time showed great excellence, but after its principal editor, J. C. S. Richardson, resigned, the *Youth* lost in ability.

The *Rambler*, from St. Louis, Mo., as a steady-going, always neat sheet, was favorably known, and classed among the best journals of the year. The *Rambler* had no "style" about its make-up, but it was a thoroughly sensible and level-headed paper.

The *Club*, edited by Geo. W. Hancock, of

Chicago, Ills., made itself famous by its peculiarly witty and bright contents. It was a very small sheet, but its originality of style caused it to become well-known. Hancock was dubbed the "champion punster." His wit was sometimes forced and often very poor, but the *Club* "took" and had many imitators.

Just before the National's convention, the *Boys' Own Weekly* was started in New York as a campaign journal, and for a time was a thoroughly red-hot sheet.

Ben Newsome's *Young American* was improved a great deal this year and was the best known journal of its class ever in the ranks. Newsome was a sound, logical and often witty writer, and had his paper been better printed, its reputation would have been of a much higher degree.

During this year, Arthur J. Huss' *Buckeye Boy* first attracted notice, and before the close of the year it had become famous.

Will. W. Bartlett's *All Sorts* also became well known, but upon its editor's defeat for the Western A. P. A.'s presidency in July, it suspended.

Chas. S. Elgutter entered the ranks of amateur journalism this year, as publisher of *Inland Amateur*, from Omaha, Neb. His little paper manifested great ability from the start, and Elgutter speedily won recognition as a writer of no ordinary talent.

Frank M. Morris, who afterwards became well known, also entered the ranks with the *Duke's Spirit*, from Pesotum, Ill., the name being changed to the *Aldine* at the latter

portion of the year, enlarged to double its original size and issued from Indianapolis.

THE AUTHORS OF THE YEAR.

1877 was a great year for amateur authors, there being more in the ranks of acknowledged ability and prominence than ever before or since. Richard Gerner contributed a large number of articles to the press, and one book, "As You Like It," from his pen was published. "Winslow" still deluged the fraternity with everything literary, save poetry. Farley, who at all times has been hailed as the best of them all, was heard from occasionally in the shape of a charming little sketch or essay, besides his serial, "Two Fair Bedouins," which was current in *Our Free Lance*, and pronounced the ablest emanation ever written by any amateur author. "Harry St. Clair" was prolific with his "Night Owl's Chronicles," of which there is no telling how many saw print, and all pretty good, too. "Harry St. Clair," whose real name is St. George Rathborne, found in amateur journalism the training school for his future career, being afterwards a regularly employed writer for several Eastern papers, under the *nom de plume* of "Marline Manly" and others.

Maurice W. Benjamin, "Feramorz," slung ink in a manner that placed him in rivalry with the best, and his articles printed this year were of unusual merit. Marvin A. Stowe, "Trojan," was not prolific, but everything from his pen was good. A. R. Taylor, "Harrago," first made an impression this year as a humorous sketch writer, and there

was a demand for his articles for awhile. "Bill Wiggins," printed in the *Empire City Amateur*, of New York, laid the corner-stone of his reputation. As for myself, I can not claim to have ever admired "Harrago's" writings. They seemed to be too strained and forced to possess intrinsic merit.

"Clifton," as J. C. Worthington styled himself, soon became known as a philosophical and logical essayist, besides the author of several sketches and novelettes of decided merit. Arthur J. Huss, "Unknown," was a writer of quite similar style to Worthington, but much more prolific. A great number of his effusions appeared in the columns of the amateur press this year, and he won a lasting reputation, and both he and Worthington were placed in the front ranks of amateur authors.

James L. Elderdice, "Hermit," whose writings have been familiar to most of my amateur readers of this day, first achieved any notoriety this year, and was very prolific for a time.

"Nettie Sparkle," Libbie L. Adams, whom I have spoken of before, still wrote for the amateur press, but not so much at the close of the year as at the beginning.

Del. W. Gee, as "Quintus," John Nason as "C. St. John Porter," "Bohemian Boy," etc., and many others who wrote under different *nom de plumes*, including "Nameless," combined to make the literature of the year of great brilliance and merit.

The amateur books published were not so numerous in 1877 as in the previous year,

but were probably of much more merit. Among those which received the greatest praise, was the "Budget of Rhymes," by Frank B. Whipple, a most charming little pamphlet of poems. "Trance or Death," by J. A. Fynes, was a splendid little story in Fynes' best style, and one of the few things from his pen that appeared this year. The "Irving Club Among the White Hills," by Alfred A. Glazier, was of 128 pages and probably the best book of the year. The "Alchemist of Chevoix," by "Childe Harold," whose real name has ever remained undivulged, was an entertaining little pamphlet and it received many notices. "The Phantom Horseman," by Clarence C. Stone, who made his first appearance as a writer of note with this book, was of fifty pages and one of the neatest volumes of the year.

"The Universal History of Amateurdom," by Marvin E. Stowe, which had been advertised for some time previous, made its appearance this year, and was of great interest to all amateur journalists. Arthur J. Huss published a "History," written by Geo. M. Huss, which was interesting, though not at all complete.

There were the usual number of "blood and thunder" pamphlets issued, though this class of literature received the severest condemnation.

PASSING EVENTS.

The excitement of the struggle between the republican and democratic parties at the beginning of the year, was the cause of several political amateur papers being issued,

and a fight, on a small scale, being introduced between the amateur journalists who affiliated with each party.

The jokes or "sells" played upon the amateur fraternity, some of which I have spoken of before, were still continued, and always found biters. Amateur publishers were deluded into inserting an advertisement upon the inducement of receiving "living alligators," which never put in an appearance, and a large number of the fraternity inserted an advertisement of a book which never was written, purporting to be by "Karl C. Yelraf," and entitled "Irene, or Caught at Last," for a copy of the work and twenty-five cents cash. Many editors who had hitherto failed to be "taken in," were "Caught at Last."

Hancock's *Club* for several issues, inserted the mystical letters "W. W. B. O. T.," with no other significance than the letters implied and after many of the amateur editors had tried to guess what they might mean, all failed to discover what Hancock afterwards explained to be "Who Will Bite On This."

CHAPTER III.—1878.

The beginning of the year found me very active in amateur journalism. My serial, "Adventures in Hayti," was continued in the January issue of the *Keystone Magazine*. A poem from my pen was published in Will. Hall's *Western Amateur*, and Ben Newsome's *Young American* contained an essay I had written on "Chinese Emigration."

Several other effusions of mine were published this month by different papers, and still more were written that afterwards appeared in the columns of the mimic press. Ed. Frye's *Eastern Sunbeam*, of Boston, Mass., published "Reminiscence I," purporting to be written by "Alex. Manley, cosmopolitian," being the commencement of a series of articles, that I intended to write, but failed, however, to do so, although I had the plots of several sketched out. The idea I still believe to be a good one, and now suggest it to young writers who are anxious to achieve fame in authorial capacities.

An essay of mine on "Old Fogies," which appeared this month in the *Amateur Inspector*, of Williamsport, Pa., attracted considerable attention, and was recopied by several journals. Right here I wish to say that nothing gives the young author more pleasure than to see his effusions copied by other journals than the one in which they originally appeared, and no better proof of how an author's standing is in the estimation of the community is afforded than is shown by how his articles are copied.

At the commencement of the year I was doing a great deal of letter writing in behalf of my candidacy for the presidency of the Western A. P. A., and replies to my epistles

encouraged me to proceed in the canvass with even more activity than before. A great deal can be done by an aspirant for office in an amateur association by judiciously feeling his way and cautiously sounding those whom he may think he can induce to give him their support. I found this so, as, no doubt, others have before and since.

To further my political ambition, I printed a four page, eight column paper, which I named the *Advocate*, and placed the name of Walter H. Cox, my business partner at the time, as its editor. The *Advocate* was issued in behalf of my campaign, of course, and designed to push it actively forward. The first issue which was neatly printed, the heading being in red ink, contained my article on "Serials in Amateur Papers," which I had read before the previous convention of the Indiana A. P. A.; the customary salutatory, and an editorial upon "Campaign Thoughts," an article upon "The W. A. P. A. Campaign," purporting to be written by W. E. Davidson, a LaFayette amateur, well-known at the time, and a number of editorial items, all showing an intimate knowledge of amateur journalistic affairs, only to be accounted for by the statement that Cox had been a close reader of my exchanges. Everything in it was written by myself, of course,

and while some amateurs were suspicious as to their authorship, at first, they were all bluffed off, and finally deceived as I will explain shortly.

In the article upon the "W. A. P. A. Campaign," I had the following to say about myself.

"Geo. Harrison, editor of the Welcome Visitor, of this place, naturally is the first whose name presents itself to us. He is an exceedingly active amateur editor and author, takes the greatest interest in amateur affairs, possesses considerable parliamentary ability, and in fact, is, we believe, the worthiest and most powerful amateur now running for the office. His paper is one of the leading papers of the West, and as an author he possesses considerable ability."

The article went on to compare my merits with those of my opponents, and to review the appearance of the campaign, with the declaration that every indication tended to show my strength and probability of being elected.

The editorial upon "Campaign Thoughts" dealt with the sectional spirit being shown by amateur journalists in their selection of candidates for the presidency of the National association, a feeling rife at that time and since. The editorial stated that candidates for office should be chosen for their ability and prominence, without regard

to section or state. The Western boys were clamoring for the election of a president for the National from their own section of the country, but this article contended that it would be more advisable and proper to choose the best available man in the ranks for the position, without regard to his residence. The *Advocate* was favorably received by the amateur press, and the recipient of many puffs. The *Club* said that "The Advocate is a good paper throughout," and even W. A. Morris, who was conducting an amateur department in the *Amateur* of Millersburg, Indiana, under the *nom de plume* of "P. R. Ancer," (one of the boys cruelly stated that *Ancer* was Latin for *goose*) said that "The Advocate was amateurical enough to suit even a hard-shell amateur."

My appearance in the arena of the field of amateur politics was not well-known until late in January. The supporters of "Windy" Morris, as the boys corrupted his name, thought they had a walk-over, and would have no trouble in electing their nominee. Quite a number of journals hoisted his name in January, prominent among them being the *Carbondale* (Ills.) *Criterion*, a weekly, commenced at the first of the year by Willis H. Allen and Elihu Palmer, and afterwards

my most vigorous opponents. The *Amateur Iowan* was also founded early in January, from *Washington*, edited by Warren Moore and Chas. G. Wilson; it also later being a vigorous enemy of my candidacy. Besides these papers which announced for Morris, *Our Compliments*, a neat twelve column paper, appeared from Davenport, Iowa, where Morris resided, and as nearly the entire matter published in it was in reference to the Western A. P. A. and its approaching campaign, and strongly supporting Morris, it was supposed that he edited the journal, although one W. L. Myers figured as its editor in print. The matter was very much after the style of Morris' compositions, and he was accused of writing it, but of course denied the alligation. While a direct revelation has never been made on this point, the future turn of events seem to corroborate the indication that he was in reality the publisher and editor of *Our Compliments*.

Ben Newsome's *Young American* had been very active in taking part in the previous campaign of the Western A. P. A., supporting Chase for the presidency, and I was anxious to get its support, although I did not directly or indirectly ask for it—that being something I never did do—ask for the support of any amateur or paper—and fi-

nally in the issue of January 31st, Newsome hoisted my name as his candidate. Every inducement had been offered him to cast his influence for Morris, even the prospect of reduced railroad rates to the coming convention, and the *Carbondale Criterion* had tried to drive him into line. For awhile he probably wavered, but eventually concluded to support me. The *Young American* was thenceforth my warmest supporter and defender that I had during the campaign and being a weekly paper, probably had more direct influence than any other journal which had chosen me for their candidate.

The *Amateur Mercury*, of Hannibal Mo., edited by Lewis W. Beaubien, one of the liveliest boys of his day, also announced me as its candidate this month. Beaubien, at first, wished to support Geo. W. Hancock, of Chicago, for the presidency of the Western, but upon the latter's declination of a nomination, the *Mercury* fell actively in line for myself.

At the commencement of my campaign I had written to Alex. W. Dingwall and Stanton S. Mills, announcing that I intended to run for the presidency of the Western, and voluntarily on their part, both replied that they preferred me to any other candidate, and would do all for me that they could

although at the same time they requested that I should not use their names as among my supporters for the reason that they did not wish to incur Morris' ill-will, and other private reasons, one being that Mills, as a candidate for the vice-presidency of the National, and Dingwall as its president, could not consistently mingle prominently in politics. Both promised that they would vote for me in the convention. I would have liked to have had two such illustrious amateurs as Mills and Dingwall announced among my supporters, but faithfully to their request, I did not publicly class them as such, and suffered the partizans of Morris to claim these two amateurs' support all during the campaign, without contradiction; since, I have learned that they also promised their support to Morris, with the request to him for secrecy, giving him the identically same reasons that they had offered me in reference to him. Without ever fathoming the extent of their probable duplicity, it remains a fact, undoubtedly, that they played a double game, and in the end neither Morris or I received either of their votes, neither being present at the convention of the Western A. P. A. I wish that they had, because I would like to know how they did stand, and to which one of us, if one, they

were playing false. Knowing that both Morris and myself were prominent amateurs, with some considerable influence, I think this reticence on their part was greatly on account of the fear that, if either of us was espoused in his race for the office, the other would oppose Mills' candidacy and defeat him for the vice presidency of the National.

Frank L. Webster, of Lawrence, Kansas, seemed to be the general favorite among Western amateurs at the beginning of the year, for the vice-presidency of the Western, but in January I offered Ben. Newsome the nomination for that office, which he accepted, and throwing my influence for him, in a short time he had a large support. Webster had been one of the editors of the famous *Amateur Reporter*, published in '76 and at this time he was issuing the *Graphic*. He was the regular nominee of the "Morris ticket," but as no effort was made to get up a "Harrison ticket," and so identify it, Webster was made the nominee of many editors who also supported me for the presidency. It is a good plan for an amateur running for a high office, such as the presidency of an association to get up as strong a slate for the balance of the offices as he can, composed of amateurs who support him, and then they can all work together.

The campaign for offices in the National Association was also progressing vigorously. Kendall, Hall and Hancock were now fully in the field for the presidency, and Arthur J. Huss of Tiffin, Ohio, and Stanton J. Mills were the principal nominees for the first vice presidency. Richard Gerner was again nominated for the presidency by Edward A. Oldham, in his *Bethel Cadet*, and others, but he declined to run, in a letter that caused much comment at the time, being a peculiar document, which I will not here describe.

Kendall had by far the largest support from amateur editors and it looked as if it would be very hard to beat him. Kendall's surprising strength was due to the exertions of Arthur J. Huss, and Delavan W. Gee, both candidates for office in the association, Gee being after the secretaryship, and these two worked together, for each other and Kendall, in a very successful and adroit manner. I had decided to support Mills for the vice presidency, considering him a friend of mine and worthy, and on receiving a letter from Huss, asking my support for himself, I wrote him a lengthy reply, drawing a comparison between himself and Mills, much to the credit of the latter, and told him candidly that I thought Mills better qualified and more deserving the office. Huss had not yet announced himself in favor of any par-

ticular candidate for the presidency of the Western, and I rather expected to have lost all chance of obtaining his support, by my letter, but in his reply, he thanked me for my candor, and promised me his support for myself. Huss was a manly boy and he and I always got along well together, many of our characteristics being identical.

For the presidency of the National I still remained in doubt. I wanted to nominate Fynes, but learned that he would not run. Mills had written to me at one time, asking me to make one of a "Kendall Campaign Committee," but I declined, and Mills, himself, after seeing how Huss and Kendall were working together, threw up the latter's cause. Hall I was earnestly opposed to, believing him not fitted or deserving the office, and I also looked on the nomination of Hancock as foolish. So January passed and left me undecided, until the 29th, when I received a postal from Wm. H. McCann, of Cincinnati, who wrote to me soliciting my support for Joseph P. Clossey, editor of *Our Free Lance*, of New York. I immediately decided to nominate him as my candidate.

J. C. Worthington, of the *Literary World*, nominated me for the third vice presidency of the National, an honor I immediately declined. I was after "bigger game."

It was in January that Zander Snyder, editor of the *Boys' Delight*, New Jersey, and well known in the ranks two years afterwards, first engaged in a short controversy with the VISITOR. Snyder had been wounded by a passing criticism, and he took several occasions to ridicule myself and the VISITOR. At this time he was a very crude and boyish writer, and criticism of his literary attempts could not but be severe, if just.

To show that my literary reputation had advanced somewhat, I reprint the following from Gee's *Southern Star:*

"The old school of amateur authors is giving place to a new one. "Harry St. Clair," "Yelraf," and "Winslow" are the only authors of '70 that still remain in the ranks. Dennis, Downey, Hillyer, Sayer, Demarest and Bonsall have long since left us, and their places are now filled by Canfield, Huss, Worthington, "Bohemian Boy," Wilson, Harrison and "Alex. Alvan.'"

The January VISITOR was late in making its appearance, consequent upon waiting for a new press. It was of six pages and contained the continuation of "Fame and Fortune," an editorial written by Dingwall upon "Amateur Fossils," and editorials upon "What Shall Amateur Editors Publish," and "The N. A. P. A.," by myself, an official proclamation from president Dingwall, concerning

expulsion of members of the National Association, who were contributing to the New York boys' professional papers, and a quantity of short notes. Dingwall's editorial was in defence of "resurrected fossils," as possible candidates for office in the associations, and in reply to an attack which had been made upon them by Arthur J. Huss, in his *Buckeye Boy*. As the subject of Amateur Fossils has formed one that has been discussed both before and since 'Sandy's' article was printed, we append several of his remarks, which apply as well now as they did then.

"It is laughable to sit quietly down and watch the proceedings of the fossil fighters —to listen to the same old arguments and same senseless nonsence, to the same powerful adjectives, and the same thing over and over again. Of course a time comes when belligerants of this character discover what great big dunces they made of themselves, and they are willing to be kicked. *** It is not necessary to remark that amateur journals do not enjoy an extended period of existence, and when some of these grumblers suspend and still maintain their connection with the 'dom, we shall remind them that they are "fossils" by their own argument. It's a poor rule that won't work both ways."

"Sandy" never did remind the anti-fossil element of what he threatened, but he might have done so in a number of instances.

My editorial upon "What Shall Amateur Editors Publish," was embodied in substance in its title. We give the last paragraph:

"Volumes can be written upon the phrase that heads this article, but our limited space precludes further discussion. Essays, sketches, serials, editorials and short notes, mixed with truthful criticisms, etc., should form the standard matter for a paper's publication and with these carefully combined, a journal's welfare is secured."

The article upon "The N. A. P. A.— a few remarks concerning the last new candidate," was in reference to the nomination of Geo. W. Hancock, editor of the *Club*, Chicago, and was in opposition to him. Some of my criticisms were made the subject of a controversy by Hancock's friends, especially a claim that I made in reference to the originality of many of his puns. I will mention this controversy further on.

All during my amateur career, I was constantly engaging in editorial controversies and tilts at various cotemporaries. In this issue of the VISITOR I replied to attacks made upon me by Zander Snyder's *Boys Delight*, Richardson's *American Youth*, and by the *Amateur* of Brooklyn. The VISITOR always was a "bumptious" sheet, and thoroughly independent, and its remarks would generally develope the combatative qualities of an

exchange in a manner that helped a great deal toward bringing my little journal into the notoriety which it enjoyed. I reprint several notices which were given this month, which substantiate the above.

The *Welcome Visitor* is always welcome. The editorials are good and the editor says what he thinks."—Feb. *Argus.*

"The Welcome Visitor, of Lafayette. is always wide awake, and its editorials display an independence which we admire."—Feb. *Buckeye Herald.*

"Harrison's Welcome Visitor is a first class paper. It has few equals in the ranks." —Feb. *Little Joker*, Kentucky.

Immediately after issuing the January VISITOR, I published the February *Advocate*. The feature of the paper, was, of course, its advocacy of myself for the presidency of the Western A. P. A. This issue nominated a ticket for the offices of the association, which was as follows: For president, Geo. Harrison; for first vice president, Benj. Newsome; for secretary, Arthur J. Huss; for treasurer, Miron H. Morrill, of Charles City, Iowa. The following is from the editorial nominating the above candidates:

"Geo. Harrison, our candidate for the highest office, has been a long and indefatigable worker in our ranks, in which he has won a host of personal friends. His journal, the Welcome Visitor, is one of our

leading publications, and shows rare editorial ability on the part of its proprietor. Harrison is, undoubtedly, one of the finest editorial writers in the 'dom. "Nameless" is acquiring considerable reputation. None of his opponents, as far as we know, equal him in any one particular."

I quote further from the *Advocate*, in reference to the campaign:

"One of the reasons that Morris' supporters give for advocating him, is that he spent time and money on the association, and attended a meeting, his opponents, Harrison and Cole, doing neither. But as the Wapa met at Davenport, (Morris' place of residence) we can't see very well what merit there was in him attending. If the association had met at Lafayette, it would be expected that Harrison would attend, or if in St. Louis, the ams would be surprised at Cole not making his appearance. As for spending money on the association, Morris undoubtedly has, but if the convention was to be held in Lafayette, we doubt not but what our friend Harrison would put as much surplus capital out of his pocket as Morris. We would, ourself. Did Morris' spend money in the interest of the association before it met at Davenport—that is, at the time of the first assembling? Did he ever disemburse a cent for railroad fare to attend its meetings. His spending money in the association's interests is no more than he should have done, considering he saved from ten to twenty dollars in railroad fare.

The February Advocate contained several other items upon the Western campaign, an editorial upon "Amateur Nomenclature," referring to the peculiar titles often given amateur papers, and the usual editorial comments and criticisms.

Until this month Morris' friends had hardly realized that I was in the field against him, and, in fact, I received a letter from "Windy" about the first, asking me for my support. But with the appearance of the *Young American* and *Advocate* they began to appreciate the opposition, and to fight stremously against it. I quote from the Feb. *Amateur Iowan.*

"We smelt the smell of a dead rat when we received a copy of the Welcome Visitor. Geo. Harrison is a candidate for the position of president of the W. A. P. A. against Wyn. Morris. We can inform the gentleman from Indiana that he is on the bull of a sinking ship, and when he grasps for the exalted position he has in view, it will melt before his eyes, and he will gradually sink into the waters of oblivion. George, dear George, you are left, sure."

In the *Advocate* I replied as follows:

The *Iowan* no doubt smelt its own sme ll eh? As for Harrison being left in the race for the Wapa presidency, we beg leave to inform our Iowa cotemporary, in all proba bility it is entirely mistaken. No other can

didate now in the field has better chances than he."

Our Compliments, of which Morris was probably the editor, had the following in its February issue:

"The *Advocate* showed its red head in our sanctum the other day, and as we usually do with our exchanges, we perused it, and glancing through it, we found an article which grossly misrepresents a matter which needs no introduction to the amateur fraternity; that of the Wapa campaign. The writer of it is one who is scarcely known in amateurdom, and his knowledge of the campaign is on a par with his reputation. How one who knows so little of amateurdom can be such a criterion, seems rather strange. The writer says that Morris' sole reputation seems to lie on the fact that he has published a large paper, in which, however, *he* scarcely ever contributed an editorial. That is a downright falsehood, for there was but one editorial published in the *Doings*, which he did not write, and that was written by Dingwall. If the writer had put that item *vice versa*, there would have been far more truth to it, for Stanton Mills and Dingwall have written every editorial of excellence which has appeared in Harrison's paper. We want fair play in this campaign, and intend to have it, too."

The *Compliments* also attacked Ben Newsome for his support of myself, and claimed that he was influenced by my offering him

the nomination for the first vice presidency.

The *Carbondale Criterion* also asserted the same thing, as follows:

"And Harrison said unto Benjamin: 'You supporteth me for president, and I will supporteth you for Vice.' And Benjamin said unto Harrison, 'All right, my covey,' and thus the bargain was complete." Also "Does the editor of the Y. A. know the meaning of the word bargain?"

The *Criterion* fought my candidacy vigorously and nearly every issue contained attacks and slurs. I print another of its assertions, which, considering the result of the campaign, will hardly identify the youthful editors as prophets:

"Almost daily we hear encouraging reports of the popularity of W. A. Morris, in the West. He will receive twice the number of votes cast for any other candidate. This is no idle boast, but the result of careful investigation. We can plainly see Cole and Harrison on the Salt River steamer."

Up to the end of February, the Western campaign was not very lively on the surface. The Indiana papers were all supporting me, and the Iowa journals were unanimous for Morris, but further than this it could not well be seen who was proving the stronger in the race. If there was any difference, I was slightly in the lead. But by letter I had been informed by a large number of ama-

teurs that they intended supporting me, and felt confident of making a creditable race, at least. Later communications settled the belief that I would win.

For the presidency of the National, I had not nominated Clossey in my January VISITOR, preferring to wait a little while. Clossey's campaign was pushed vigorously in February, and I received letters, circulars and campaign documents, all advocating him. Looking at one now before me, I see that it is headed by the "Clossey Campaign Committee," A. W. Dingwall, chairman; John Hosey, secretary. It was well gotten up on fine letter paper, and advocated the election of Clossey and Mills in well-worded phrases. If I am not mistaken, Mills, himself, wrote this document, notwithstanding the printed "John Hosey, secretary." It is most undoubtedly according to Mills' general ways of composition, and was printed by him beyond dispute.

The following letter I received during February, which explains itself:

"Friend H—***As you have not yet decided upon your N. A. P. A. presidential ticket, have you any objections to handing your support to Clossey and Mills? You know them both—better men we could not get. If you will guarantee to give your whole influence to this ticket, I will *guaran-*

tee that you will gain votes enough to elect you to the W. A. P. A. This ticket is not being run by asses, and in two months you will be surprised at our adherents. *We will work you in.* Morris has twice solicited my vote for him. He wont get it and when I go down to Davenport and Rock Island this week, I shall stave him off. Write at once and give me your decision. DINGWALL."

Needless to say the above proposition suited me exactly, and of course I replied favorably.

The National association's campaign was at this time "the theme of every pen," and every paper, large and small, had something to say in support of their choice for the higher offices. "Winslow" wrote to *Our Boys and Girls* of Philadelphia, to say that he was "in the hands of his friends." Gerner, in a letter to the *Bethel Cadet*, announced his retirement from the ranks and gave Amateurdom "one year to live and die in." Clossey was gaining strength rapidly. Hall was conducting his own campaign and influencing the Chicago vote. Kendall had the largest paper support, and Hancock brought up the rear on the "printer's ticket."

Dingwall did not have one renomination for the presidency, the mistake of his election being too fully realized.

For the vice presidency, Mills was by far

the most popular, especially among the older boys, although his speech at the Davenport convention of the Western A. P. A., wherein he said that "he had made a solemn vow, never under any circumstances, to accept any office in the gift of an amateur association," was being used against him with some effect, and his principal competitor, Arthur J. Huss, was doing effective work.

Attacks were made on Clossey, claiming that he was a jew; by others that he was a catholic and he lost some ground in consequence of the declarations, although they were branded as false. Many editorials appeared declaiming against "bringing religion into the campaign."

"Winslow" had no support to speak of, and before the end of the campaign, dropped out of sight.

In my February VISITOR which was of twelve columns, and issued at middle of the month, I nominated Clossey and Mills for the presidency and vice presidency of the National Association, claiming that they were *ne plus ultra* and the most worthy candidates in the field.

This issue of the VISITOR contained the conclusion of the serial "Fame and Fortune," five chapters of which were written by myself. I had to finish it very abruptly, as I

found that I needed the space it occupied each month for other matter, and so, like many other authors, I expect, I killed the hero, and sank his companions in a typhoon. Peace to their memories!

This issue of the VISITOR advocated the formation of an "Editors' and Authors' Association," after resolved into the "Editors' Lyceum." I quote from my first article on the subject.

"Our National, Sectional and State A. P. A's have all one fault, and that is their admission to membership persons who cannot really lay claim to the title of *active amateurs.* It is the amateur editors and authors who organize these associations, but as they admit all who can in any manner lay claim to the name of amateur, in many cases the original founders and supporters are far out-numbered by obscure puzzlers and printers, who, although they may be amateurs, are as far removed from editors and authors as earth is from the sky. * * * Thus our conventions, instead of presenting that array of talent and ability that is expected to emanate from them, are in some cases dragged down into the mire of infamy and disgrace."

The formation of this association was immediately made a subject for discussion by the amateur press, and the idea of its organization was generally favorably received, although there were some dissenters who claimed that such a society would injure th

National A. P. A. I wrote to a number of follow editors asking for their support in aiding the organization of such an association and was gratified by many encouraging answers. Authur J. Huss, of the *Buckeye Boy* was especially interested, and after some correspondence with him, we concluded to call the contemplated association the "Editors' Lyceum," with editors, *only*, as members. Huss took right hold with me, and together we compiled a constitution and by-laws, and were ready for the organization at Chicago, in the coming July.

The February VISITOR also contained an editorial upon "Amateur Egotism," which attracted considerable notice, and was the cause of some back-handed slaps being editorially made at myself. In the "Editorial notes," I suggested a plan for proxy voting in the elections of the National A. P. A., then being discussed and given much attention. My plan was as follows:

"At each convention a committee of five could be appointed to examine all votes sent in on postal cards, and admit and cast such, the sender of which was a member of the association and known to be such by three or four of the committee. Otherwise the postal ballot to be rejected. The committee to consist of well-known amateur editors and represent equally the various presidential candidates."

This plan was slightly commented upon, and was not finally adopted, although I think now that it would be much simpler and better than the one afterwards adopted by the National A. P. A. Its virtues are its simplicity and absence of "red tapism," which latter cannot be said to not exist in that portion of the present constitution of the National referring to the proxy balloting.

My attack on Hancock's puns, in the January VISITOR, was replied to by some of the papers supporting him, and the *Snark* of St. Louis called for proof of my assertion that "we had seen several of Hancock's puns before they appeared in his paper." These I now mentioned, and substantiated my assertion, whereupon, many editors supporting other nominees for the presidency of the National, claimed that I had demolished his reputation. But the end of this controversey was not yet.

The March VISITOR appeared well on time. It contained a well-written essay upon "Church Socials," by Stanton S. Mills, "The Parable of the Small Boy's Courtship," by "Unknown" (A. J. Huss,) an article upon the Dingwall-Snyder controversy, then attracting attention, written by Dingwall, himself, an editorial upon the "Campaign," and three columns of short items.

In his editorial, Dingwall lauds himself in a manner that will appear astonishing to those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and for their benefit, and as the article covers a subject of some interest, I reprint the editorial entire:—

Dingwall vs. Snyder.

The above named gentlemen are at present engaged in a caustic passage-at-arms, between themselves. The discussion, which arose from matters connected with that unfortunate and much maligned convention of last July, has been cuttingly sarcastic, and consequently has awoke amateurdom from a sort of lethargy. We do not desire to moralize, but it really is a pity that the modest and dignified president of the N. A. P. A. and the gifted and scholary vice president should find it necessary to resort to the public print to settle a dispute. We regard the estrangement of the two highest officers of the N. A. P. A. as a deplorable circumstance, and one that should have been avoided, even though the result may not prove injurious to the association. We think we know Dingwall well enough to assert that he will not allow any dispute to have a detrimental effect upon the association, and we think Snyder too patriotic and loyal to suffer himself to be carried away by passion. Dingwall has been made to smart for the honor which is his, and when we read Snyder's first open letter—the cause of the rupture—we imagined it would have the effect of bringing our quiet president to his feet, but

we were hardly prepared for the daring and penetrating home-thrusts which his defence contained. It is a somewhat perilous undertaking to "show up" the designs of an amateur so popular as Snyder, but we can distinguish no trace of fear or wavering spirit in Dingwall's defence. His language is refined and his manner gentlemanly and respectful, his sarcasm is cutting, and his arguments, comparisons and similes are powerful in the way they upset Snyder. However, we regret the whole thing. Snyder's first letter was the "last straw," etc. There was no occasion for the publication of such a mass of bosh. There is no excuse, whatever, for Snyder. He went too far and provoked the dispute. Coming from the vice president of the N. A. P. A., this letter is naughty. The election squabble was quieting down nicely, but this letter spoiled all. Snyder rushed into print with a couple of cock-and bull stories, conceitedly lauded himself, and whacked away at that poor devil Dingwall, in an underhanded way. His remark that he had been requested to act as president and not recognize Dingwall, is good. To avoid this contingency, he "discountenances" this movement. We wonder what so good a parliamentarian as Snyder thought when this proposal (?) was made to him. Not being so prejudiced then as he is now, he probably characterized the proposer as "an egregious ass, and on general principles a numbskull, warranted to be as represented."

To say that Dingwall's reply is a tremendous dose to Snyder would be drawing it

mild, but we must remember the qualities of patience and forbearance of the people of this generation are not by any means unlimited, but just the same, in our opinion, Dingwall has done nothing wrong and consequently need not be forgiven. Compare Snyders' letter and Dingwall's defence a number of times and but one conclusion can be arrived at, and that is that Mr. Snyder has "put his foot in it." Dingwall guesses at nothing; his arguments are logical, his denials explicit and satisfactory, and his charges and interpretation of Snyder's conduct so palpably plain that it is difficult to realize the change in the once popular "Winslow." Matters were bad enough for him after Dingwall's hot shot, but he has made them infinitely worse by inditing another letter on the same subject. If he could disprove any of Dingwall's charges, there might have been some object in replying, but he could not. His last letter puts him in a bad light; he loses his temper and ingraciously touches Dingwall with a poor apology for sarcasm. He avoids the main arguments in Dingwall's letter as if they were red-hot coals, and lawyer-like, attempts a counter-movement, which is a miserable failure.

Now that both gentlemen have spent their wrath, let them shake and make up. We want no more of these quarrels; they are pernicious and very unsatisfactory."

"Our modest and dignified president" undoubtedly wanted it to appear that he had the best of the controversy, as, indeed, he had.

This was the last article from Dingwall's pen that ever appeared in the columns of the VISITOR, as I was soon compelled to ensmall my paper, and needed all the space for my own writings. While associated with me, Dingwall assisted greatly in making the VISITOR popular, and he was a good writer, sarcasm being his main point.

My own editorial in the March VISITOR, reviewed the appearance of the National A. P. A. campaign, and of course, was written in Clossey's interest. It certainly was laudatory and I afterwards had the satisfaction of seeing it pasted in Clossey's scrap-book, among a few select notices, which he had brought with him to Chicago.

The short items in this issue, embracing comment and criticism, were numerous, and the issue, all-in-all, was one of the best I had published up to that time. One paragraph I quote, which applies as well now as it did then:

"Being a candidate for office spoils some of our most creditable writers. They become too circumspect in their criticisms, and will not move out of a certain field, unless against a declared opponent."

Not long after the March VISITOR had been mailed, I received the *Snark*, from St. Louis, edited by J. L. Watson, a supporter of Hancock for the N. A. P. A. presidency.

The *Snark* had previously called for proof of my assertion regarding Hancock, which I offered in my February issue. This number of the *Snark* contained a long letter from Hancock, himself, regarding the matter, wherein he denied making any but original puns, and the *Snark*, editorially, devoted about a column to replying to my attack. But as I had plainly proven my assertion that I had seen some of Hancock's puns before, the *Snark* did not try to get around that fact, and instead, affirmed that I had called Hancock a plagiarist, and called for the proof of such an assertion. This was a dodge on the part of Watson to escape answering my original charge, as, while I had said that I had "seen some of his puns before," I had not called Hancock a plagiarist. My article, was in fact, nothing but "campaign thunder," and it caused a much greater stir than I expected. What made the *Snark* call for proof that Hancock was a plagiarist, even more ridiculous, was the statement in Hancock's own letter, that "Harrison does not accuse me of plagiarism."

The *Quill*, of Memphis, Tenn., also devoted a column to answering my attack, and the Hancock papers all had something to say about the matter.

As I had not intended to issue another

VISITOR for over a month, I wrote to Watson, personally, discussing the matter, and he and I had an animated correspondence for some time. I also wrote to Ben. Newsome, of the *Young American*, and requested him to insert the following item, editorially, in his own paper, which he did:

"The Welcome Visitor proves conclusively its assertion to the effect that it has seen several of the *Club's* puns before they had appeared in that journal, the *Snark* to the contrary, notwithstanding. Watson makes a big splurge about the matter, that all amounts to nothing, except to show that he is still unconvinced. The puns mentioned by the Visitor all appeared before they were published by the *Club*, and that was all the Visitor claimed. Watson, however, with true bull-headedness, refuses to see it in that light, and howls and raves around frantically. Poor fellow."

Ben Newsome was my "right bower" at this time, and stuck up for me so that it lead the *Sun*, of Washington, in sarcastically commenting upon the *Young American's* latin, to observe that "all the gods from Jupiter to George Harrison, would not save it from the revengeful spirit of that murdered grammar."

In February the *Young American* printed an essay I had written on "Chinese Emigration," arguing against it. Later it published a reply, written by an amateur under the

nom de plume of "Castings." I wrote a reply to "Castings," and he was heard of no more, but Frank L. Misner, under the pseudonym of "Frank Lincoln," replied to me through the columns of the *Young American*, with the fourth article upon the subject, and I furnished the fifth in my reply to him. Such a discussion naturally attracted attention, and made one of the features of the *Young American* for the year, besides forming a topic of comment for many amateur editors.

My serial, "Adventures in Hayti," ended in the March *Keystone Magazine*. *New Notes*, from Cairo, Ills., published a short sketch I had written, entitled "A Harmless Hoax," and several other articles from my pen appeared this month.

In the campaign for the presidency of the Western A. P. A., a new candidate had put in an appearance, in the person of J. L. Watson, editor of the *Snark*, who had a local support for the position. Quite a number of papers came out for me this month, and I lead Morris in popular favor. The *Carbondale Criterion* continued its attacks, and the *Young American* and the *Criterion* were constantly fighting each other. The *Criterion* reiterated its charges that Newsome and I, in our mutual support of each other, were influenced by a consideration. I publish the *Criterion's* editorial:

"It matters not who first nominated the precocious youngster for the vice presidency, but the fact remains uncontradicted that Harrison began a campaign in his interest immediately after the youthful prodigy hoisted the name of H. Every indication pointed to a secret understanding between the two. The "intimate correspondence" carried on between them, added plausibility to our charges, and Benny's continued silence during the first days of the campaign, proves, conclusively, that like Macawber, he was waiting patiently for something to "turn up," and he waited not in vain; for the ambitious Hoosier understood how to approach a "green 'un," and the innocent Benny lent a willing ear to his propositions. We observed these things, and intimated that there existed a secret agreement, the purpose of which was published in the last *Criterion.*

Deny what you may, Messrs. Harrison and Newsome; we are firmly convinced that you do not support each other without a consideration, and your declarations of innocence will not shake our belief, or that of many others who have watched the turn of affairs during the past month. Your attempts to calmly ridicule the *Criterion's* assertions are too palpable and so peculiarly similar to the course guilty parties usually pursue, that a majority of Western amateurs will go to Chicago, determined to rebuke the two kindred spirits, who adopted as their motto: "Support me and I will support you." "Verily, the way of the transgressor is hard."

The *Criterion* also asserted that Morris

would receive twelve more votes on the first ballot than the number cast for all other candidates.

I append several loose comments made in March exchanges:

"The Welcome Visitor, of Lafayette, is a monthly containing a continuous story, and other interesting matter. If the editorials were freer from egotistical remarks—less personal—the journal would improve."—*Quarterly Echo*, of Dublin, Ireland.

"Welcome Visitor contains some fine editorials."—*Prairie Flower*, Mattoon, Ills.

"George Harrison is an aspirant for the presidency of the Wapa. No person is more capable to fill the position than he."—*Boys' Favorite*, Indianapolis, Ind.

"Harrison has hit the nail on the head in his article on "Amateur Fossils," in the last issue of the Welcome Visitor,"—*Planet.*

"The Welcome Visitor, from the Hoosier State, is far above the average amateur journal in its editorial department."—*Little Sportsman.*

"The Welcome Visitor devotes all its space to amateurdom and to finding fault with the fraternity."—*Yankee.*

During March I received more exchanges than in any month before or since.

The April VISITOR was issued in a hurry, as I was making arrangements to change my residence from Lafayette to Indianapolis. It was of eight columns, only, and contained

a two column editorial reply to the *Snark* on the Hancock controversy, an essay on "Human Nature," by "Alex. Alvan," (Ben. Newsome), an article suggesting the organization of a "Critic's League," and a number of editorial items.

I gave some statistics in this issue, which may interest my amateur journalistic reader of the present day:

"We received 150 papers last month; of these exactly 100 were dated March, 14 ahead of time for April; 28 dated February, 4 for January, 3 for December, and one away back in October. Of these 31 we had never received before. Ten were beginners. Seven had their titles begin with "*Boy's*," while four ended in *Boy*. Six held as part of their cognomen the word *Star*, and 13 had *Amateur* as part of their heading. 29 contained serials; most of these are good and show talent, but a few are poor. The editorials published number 144. Of these 61 were published in eight column papers. They were upon all topics under the sun, and many evince great talent. Some papers published four editorials. A few, we are sorry to say, are without any. Of poetry, 82 pieces were published, and in spite of the tirade that usually greets them, several "spring poems" made their appearance. 80 short sketches and 45 essays were printed in the March editions of our exchanges."

This issue of the VISITOR suggested that presidents of the National A. P. A. write

annual messages, an idea which was afterwards adopted in a changed form, in the constitution of the association.

I also continued to defend Dingwall from the attacks that were continually being made against him on the score of his inactivity.

My article on the formation of a league of reviewers, or critics, attracted so much attention, and formed such a feature of amateur journalism for some time afterwards, that I will quote, in order to give my present readers an understanding of what this organization was.

"Many good ideas are broached by amateurs, but fall into the depths of oblivion because they do not receive the cooperation and criticism of our journals. Now this is not as it should be. When an idea is promulgated in the interests of the 'Dom, it should be the latter's place to take it up,—each editor should give his opinion about it, whether favoring or in disapproval. But as the matter now stands, we cannot hope for this turn of events unless some decided steps are taken to form an association of amateur editors who will bind themselves to criticise, at least in some extent, ideas which their fellow members bring forward and ask criticism upon. To show what we mean, we give the following illustration:

Suppose Huss, Hall, Hancock, Harris and ourself comprised the members of this contemplated league. Huss brings forward his plan of abolishing elective official organs,

and asks criticism upon it. Now Hall, Hancock, Harris and ourself, as members of the league, are in honor bound to criticise the idea through the columns of our respective papers, and if others belong to the league, they would also have to criticise the idea.

We calculate upon a membership of at least twenty editors, and perhaps fifty, hence a compilation of impartial criticism could be brought to bear upon any subject that a member may propose, providing it be one of interest to the fraternity at large. No conventions need be held, nor but one officer elected, which can be done by postal card balloting. This officer is needed for the purpose of deciding whether the ideas a member proposes, are worthy of the league's criticisms. If they are, he signs his name to the written form, and the proposer of it brings it before the league in a department assigned to that body, in *his own paper*."

This idea was favorably received by the entire fraternity, and letters of approval and significations of membership came pouring in soon after the April VISITOR was mailed, until by the time the next issue of my paper was printed, the Critic's League was a pronounced success in point of members.

In the organization of this society and also of the Editors' Lyceum, I exerted every energy, and the success that they had was greatly due to the letter writing I did in their behalf.

The origination of two such schemes as the

"Lyceum" and "League," and my connection with them, had a great deal to do with placing me prominently before the fraternity, as in mentioning them, my name was naturally used in the same breath.

The *Ohio Spy* was inclined to ridicule the "League" a little, as witness the following:

"There is nothing like prompt action in anything. There's Harrison, proposes a plan, appoints himself president and all the other offices, and gets down to business in less time than a 'cat can wink her eye.' "

The Critic's League formed the subject of many editorial items during the next few months, and between it and the Lyceum, the VISITOR, my candidacy for the presidency of the Western A. P. A., and my contributions to the amateur press, nearly every paper I received had comments bearing upon my doings. These were enjoyable times for me —I was tasting the sweets of fame, and it had not palled on me at that time.

Some press notices concerning the Lyceum and League, I subjoin; also other notices:

"Harrison's plan for a League of Reviewers is, in our opinion, a good one. Reckon us as an eager Leaguer."—*Headlight.*

"'Fame and Fortune,' a well written serial, ended in the last number of the Welcome Visitor."—*Literary Signal.*

"The editorial department of the Welcome Visitor is filled to overflowing with articles that display much talent."—*Columbian.*

"We hardly like the idea of an Author's and Editors' Association, as we think it would be very detrimental to the N. A. P. A. — *Columbian.*

"The proposed Editors' Lyceum," is the best thing we have heard of yet.— *Telephone.*

"Harrison, of the Welcome Visitor, has succeeded in establishing a 'Critic's League,' This plan, which is probably open to criticism, will undoubtedly prove more beneficial than the amateur press associations, with which the country is flooded. The plan, itself, is a good one, but if carried to excess, will create much more danger and prove more of a pest than the press associations." *Make or Break.*

"The new Critic's League is undoubtedly a 'big thing,' and some of their discussions are even 'bigger things.' The "boss gas bag" lets a flood of light over the subject, by saying 'we approve of it.' The utility of the scheme is at once made evident by this utterance. Verily, Harrison, thou art a man of parts!"— *Ohio Spy.*

Among the articles that I had contributed to the amateur press, that appeared this month, was an essay on "The Amateur Author," in the *Cricket*, which was so horribly bungled up by typographical errors, and transpositions by the ubiquitous "intelligent compositor," that I hardly recognized this emanation as my own. A sketch entitled "Roy's Bold Feat," appeared in the *Knight Errant*, an essay on "Religious Revivals,"

in the *Buckeye Boy*, a poem, "The Flower," in the *Egytian Star*, and the *Waverly*, *Eastern Sunbeam*, *Buckeye Herald*, and other papers also published some of my "effusions."

My two column article in the April VISITOR, on the Hancock controversy, was answered by a similar lengthy reply in the *Snark*, wherein the writer reiterated that the VISITOR was endeavoring to prove Hancock a plagiarist.

This controversy was over a matter with no particular point to it, all having been said in attack and defence at the beginning, and the following from the *Ohio Spy* states the case plainly:

"The *Snark* and the Welcome Visitor are quarreling over a matter of not the slightest importance. Even if the puns were seen before in another form it cannot be proven that they were seen by Hancock, and until then it amounts to nothing against him.

On the 17th of April I changed my residence to Indianapolis, where I had the satisfaction of being among a few active amateurs, there being none in Lafayette at the time I left. But for two weeks after I moved, I received hardly any mail, although my enthusiasm did not suffer from that fact, as in that time I wrote a number of articles and prepared copy for my next VISITOR.

Will R. Perrin, my former partner in pub-

lishing the *Indiana Boy,* was then issuing the *Windy Courier* weekly, and I accepted an associate editorship on that sheet, and was connected in that capacity with it for a short time, it suspending not long afterwards.

About the first of April I sent my "Letter of acceptance," for the nomination to the presidency ot the W. A. P. A., to the *Amateur Mercury*, of Hannibal, Mo., and it appeared in that sheet the same month. I publish it here in full.

"To my amateur friends and supporters for the W. A. P. A. presidency:—Your journals nominating me for the presidency of the Wapa having been duly received, I consider it incumbent to those who know not already my views, to declare my intentions. In the first place, gentlemen, I feel much doubt as to my ability to fill the position so kindly offered me, and there are very likely other western boys who would occupy it with much more credit. Still, however, I fully appreciate your kind intentions, and will at once state that I will gladly accept your nomination. *Gladly*, because it greatly pleases me to find that my endeavors in our ranks were, however humble, appreciated. I only hope that you do not over-estimate their value. I will do my best, if elected, to fill the position with credit, both to you and to the 'dom. It will ever be my wish to advance the interests of our "little world." I wish to see it assume a greater importance in the eyes of the general public, and rise

into greatness, and to accomplish this, I will do my utmost. Amateur journalism in the West has always flourished since the start. Our papers have attained a great reputation for their general editing, and amateurdom can well feel proud of this section of her territory. It is here that Farley, Barley, St. Rathborne, Bagg and other prominent amateurs have resided, and with the exception of poor Barler, who went to his grave with the shadow of an unjust stigma hanging over him, do yet reside. It is here the genial Dingwall, the "parliamentary" Mills, the preserving Chase, and the energetic Newsome hold their residence. It is here that the *Brilliant*, *Amateur Aspirant*, *Age* and *Our Boys* have been published, and we have occasion to feel proud of what the West has accomplished.

To hold the position of presiding officer of the principal press association of this famous district, is indeed an honor. Believe me, I would feel it as such. Now, a word at the close. The gentlemen who are my opponents for the presidency, are, as far as I know, able men. I trust that my supporters will treat them with *politeness*, at least, and hope that the campaign slander, unfortunately too often indulged in, will be abolished by those who lend me their support. Yours Fraternally, GEO. HARRISON."

That was pretty good for the editor of the *Advocate*, was'nt it?

Morris did not publish a letter of acceptance, I believe, or if he did I have no copy

of it. However he got out his *Monthly Doings* this month, being scared into it, I presume, by the expressions of my supporters, in their political items, asserting "Vote for an active amateur and not a fossil," his continued silence for the past few months, bringing the latter sobriquet home to him.

There was something like a cessation of hostilities this month, in the Western campaign, and its affairs remained rather quiet. Cole had dropped out of sight; Watson's support was only in and around St. Louis, and his chances of election were hardly taken into consideration by the opposing factions. Some few current comments I append.

"Henry Clay was elected Speaker of the House upon his first appearance therein, but that is no sign that Harrison will be elected president of the Wapa directly after joining the same . . . If the republicans elect a dozen constables in Georgia next fall, or the democrats a dozen coroners in "old Vermont," we shall be willing to acknowledge Harrison's superior claims for the presidency of the W. A. P. A.; not before these events are recorded, however"—*Carbondale Criterion.*

"We discountenanced Morris' candidacy from the first, and expressed our regret that some person was not in the field whom we could honestly and enthusiastically support; that person we found in Thos. G. Harrison."—*Young American.*

"Geo. Harrison, the well known editor of the WELCOME VISITOR, of Lafayette, Indiana, is our candidate for the Wapa presidency. Long and favorably known as one of amateurdom's most accomplished and earnest workers, he is sure to carry the day at the Chicago Convention."—*Amateur Mercury.*

"Harrison in his letter of acceptance, says: "I feel much doubt as to my ability to fill the position." Poor boy! Perhaps he will be obliged to bear those feelings of doubt for several years to come. He will this next year anyway as his supporters are very limited."—*Amateur Iowan.*

During the month of April I first noticed the names of Frank N. Reeve, as editor of the *Independent Times*, Finlay A. Grant, as editor of the *Young Bluenose*, Thos. H. Parsons, as editor of the *Amateur Blade*, and of Will. C. Brown with his *Young American*, all then young in the ranks 'though destined afterwards to occupy prominent positions.

Up to the spring of this year I had always signed myself "Geo. Harrison," but in March I changed my signature to my full name, Thos. G. Harrison. This caused some confusion afterwards, and at different times I have been compelled to identify the "George" and "Thos. G." as one and the same.

On announcing to Dingwall that I would dispense thereafter with his services on the VISITOR, he wrote as follows:

"I have to thank you many times for your kindness to me in allowing me the use of the columns of your journal. I was forced to adopt that plan of defending myself, simply because Hall and Heuman have been *working against me ever since my election*, and it is Hall's object to attempt a move of some kind at Chicago. I hope you have not got the impression that I am a conceited, brainless puppy, 'though I don't blame you if you have drawn that conclusion. My amateur friends who know me personally, can tell you that such a conclusion would not be exactly correct. The attempts of Hall have been of the *underhanded* sort, or I never would have been forced to take my own part, under the name of another. My term will soon expire and I shall be very glad of it, for I'm thoroughly tired of serving a lot of infinite asses."

I did not blame "Sandy" in the least, and so told him.

During April an attempt was made to coerce Newsome into voting for Morris. He was elected one of the delegates to the Chicago convention, which the local press association, of which he was a member, had resolved to send, and the delegates then instructed to vote for Morris for the Western A. P. A. presidency. This placed Ben in somewhat of a quandary, which he surmounted by declining the delegateship.

"Owing to circumstances over which he

had no control," Newsome's *Young American* soon afterwards suspended, and I lost an able supporter. The disappearance of this paper from the field of amateur journalism was much regretted, and for nearly two years the fraternity heard no more of Ben Newsome.

Soon after my change of residence to Indianapolis, by request of Morris, I assumed an associate editorship on his *Aldine*, along with Stanton S. Mills, and was so advertised in the May issue of that journal, to which I contributed nothing but a short article upon the Critic's League.

Perhaps my readers will pardon me if I again insert some press notices received at this time, about the League. But the League was a favorite idea of my, practicable still, if amateur journalists of the present day have energy enough to organize it.

"There is, perhaps, no one way of effecting so much, as in the discussion of schemes put forth by their brother editors, as been lately suggested by Thos. G. Harrison. Of course there are many other subjects of comment, and these should always get their share; but impartial criticism of plans invented for the benefit of the cause must often result in much practical good, as well as offering exercise for the writer's judgment and themes for composition. Moreover, it is but due the inventor that his scheme

should be noticed, for he has only the best intentions in putting it forth, and for the advancement of the cause. For these reasons we commend Mr. Harrison's proposition and hope to see it adopted."—Sullivan's May *Index*. Lowell, Mass.

"Geo. Harrison is the author of a scheme, which, if carried into effect, cannot fail to work desirable results. His object is to organize a critic's league, the aim of which would be to criticise all new ideas brought before the 'dom. This league will supply a want long needed in amateurdom, by giving a just criticism of many good ideas that would otherwise be passed by, unnoticed, and it receives our heartiest approval."—May *Western Boys*.

"Thos. G. Harrison, of the Welcome Visitor, is the author of an editorial scheme, which we think cannot fail to work good results. He proposes to form an editorial league for the purpose of criticising impartially any subject that may be brought forward by an amateur editor, either favoring, or in disapproval. Such a system has long been needed. We give the project our hearty approval."—Lawrence's May *Eastern Star*.

"The Welcome Visitor gets enthusiastic over a project which it advances to insure the discussion of amateur topics by the fraternity. We believe too little notice is taken of our deep minded youths, but we should be unwilling to bind ourselves to criticise every petty whim a cotemporary, anxious for notoriety, might devise. However, if others

think differently, we advise them to join the league."—May *Yankee.*

ANOTHER BRIGHT IDEA.—What we need is the League now being organized by Thos. G. Harrison. Many good ideas are lost from there being no notice taken of them, each one waiting for another to express his opinion; or more frequently, they are looked over so lightly that the reader knows not what they mean. If a fair, honest criticism could be had of the plans for improvement broached by editors and others, we doubt not that many, otherwise unnoticed, would be very instrumental in elevating the 'Dom. We tender the League our hearty support."—May *Comet.*

The above comments, besides others that I have printed, show plainly that the universal approbation of the fraternity was with the League

The postal laws began troubling the boys in May, and a general howl of dismay went up all along the line, and I have now a number of communications before me, from fellow editors at that time, all bearing the same melancholy tale—Suspension. Oh the torrents of invectives launched at the niggardliness of Uncle Sam's post office department, and the countless "leaders" upon the postal troubles. "Killed by a postage stamp" seemed to be the unanimous feeling of my cotemporaries in regard to the condition of amateur journalism. At first the revolution

began in spots, many editors still having their journals pass through the mails with impunity and all the glory of "pound rates," but as gradually each one was brought to book, the tale of woe was repeated, and merged into a pæan for a whole year. In fact, it was not until 1879 that the VISITOR was "called to account," but even then I did not grumble and afterwards stamped every one mailed.

But the beginning of the trouble is a time long to be remembered. Amateurdom was in a state of anxiety and dismay utterly unparalleled. Excited editors predicted the immediate dissolution of amateur journalism, even to the last remnant, and in fact, even the most far-seeing knew not how it would end. For a time the papers dropped like the leaves, but at the close of the panic, the survivors found that those remaining constituted nearly all the worth and stability of what had been before, and that in the main, the result had been beneficial in destroying the boyish playthings of which a majority of the "immature amateurs" had made their journals.

In looking through my files of the year, I see so many articles in my exchanges upon this subject, that a book the size of this, would not contain one-half of them. Schemes

for evading the law were numerous, and volumes were published, explaining how to conform to it, and thus evade the demanded tribute to the "P. O."

Amateur journalism in the South, at this time, was prostrated by the terrible epidemic of yellow fever, which was then raging, and in Memphis, Tenn., three of the leading lights among our Southern representatives were victims of the disease, besides others in different portions of the South. Will. L. Wright's *Egyptian Star*, with its "Appeal to the Amateur Journalists of the United States for Help," brings back the sad and forgotten story vividly, and also commends the sympathy and charity of that worthy youth, whose sympathy was doubtless shared, but whose charity—alas! "Tell it not in Gath!"—but amateur journalists usually have little, and that little they cannot spare.

The May VISITOR, the first of the series issued from Indianapolis, appeared during the month, with eight columns, and contained three editorials, a "Critic's League" department, official department of the Indiana A. P. A., and editorial items. The leading editorial was sarcastically written upon "Correl Kendall's Claims," quoted from the *Stylus*, Huss' new paper, and was an attack upon Kendall. The Critic's League received a

column and a half explanation, and the Hancock controversy received its final touch from my hands in my answer to the *Snark's* last attack. The official department consisted of notes upon amateur affairs in the State, and the editorial items were neither many nor brilliant. I notice one great truth, proven by time and precedent, which I stated in criticising a proposition made by a Cincinnati amateur, for the amateurs of that section and near at hand, to charter a railroad car for the trip to Chicago, wherein I said, "No plan where amateurs have to advance money ever worked or ever will work."

I nominated in this issue, the *Carbondale Criterion* for the official organship of the Western A. P. A., although this sheet was a most able opponent in my contest for the presidency of that association—a nomination that required of me some exhibition of generosity, as the treatment I had received at its hands had hardly been fair—but the ability and energy shown by its editors, warranted the honor. However, the nomination was declined, "with thanks."

I had been contemplating the publication of "Annals of Amateur Journalism for 1877," in pamphlet form, at this time, but finally gave up the notion.

Arthur J. Huss and I, as long as he was in the ranks, were personal correspondents, ever since he wrote to me asking my support for himself, for the vice presidency of the National, and my reply, wherein I declined, and drew a comparison between himself and Mills. I afterwards asked him what *he* thought of Mills, and he replied as follows:

"I know absolutely nothing about Stanton S. Mills. I have *heard* that he was a good author and parliamentarian, and once edited a paper (I never saw a copy.) I have seen about ten stories by him, during my five years as an amateur. However I do know that he acted the part of a contemptible traitor with Correl Kendall, of Boston. He published himself as Kendall's chosen colleague—he made everybody, Kendall included, think that he was a strong Kendall man, and then, after getting all the support he could in this quarter, turned himself softly around and went upon Clossey's side. I say right here that nobody can depend on Mills. He is following the advice once given to a candidate—'Be perfectly round.' He commits himself on no point, promises his support to everybody, and deserts his truest friends when he thinks he can benefit himself by so doing. I say this not because Mills is my opponent. You asked me what I thought of him and now you know;—in conclusion, I would say that he is the worst kind of a Benedict Arnold. This is all I *know* of Mr. Stanton S. Mills."

Evidently "Amateur Journalist Huss," as Mills afterwards dubbed him, had no love for the latter.

Huss at this time was quite positive that the result at Chicago would lie between Hancock and Kendall, for the N. A. P. A. presidency, and when I asserted that the fight was between Clossey and Hall, he laughed at me. "Neither Clossey nor Hall have a ghost of a chance," wrote Arthur; also "I think you are ahead as regards the Wapa presidency. I shall vote for you, but please don't say anything about it. Watson, of St. Louis, is running, you know, and he would think it rather queer if he knew I supported *you*, who oppose *me*, while he supports me."

I like to quote from Huss' letters, as he was a boy who never scrupled to say what he thought, and his remarks could stand as his real opinions. I give another extract upon a seasonable topic:

"You are perfectly right regarding all the presidential candidates. They are not the best men in the 'dom, by any means. For my part, I would rather see J. A. Fynes president, than any one that is running. I have met every one of the candidates, and personally like Clossey and Hancock. The latter is very shallow—his paper is a good index of his intellect. Clossey seems like a good-natured chap, and has plenty of money.

He has no self-possession, however, as when at Long Branch he made a motion, or addressed the chair, he was frightened and confused. This was also the case at the Briggs' reception. He stammered when he read his essay, and produced it in a tiresome, monotonous tone—this from Briggs, himself. However, it makes no particular difference to me, who is elected. One will probably do as well as the other. But by all means, let us next year have for president, and all the other offices, *active, energetic, able editors*.

"My opinion of Morris is that he is a d——d fool. No one asked him and no one expected him to pay the printing bills of the association, and if he was a mind to do so, why that is no reason why the presidency should be given him. It is no charity, anyway, when he expects to be rewarded for it. I have a good notion to propose at the Chicago meeting that the association pay over to him the amount expended, in order to get rid of his infernal howl. It would be a merited rebuke. * * * You have the gratification of knowing that the better class of editors support you. * * * It strikes me that our style of writing is similar. * * * There are three persons whom I am particularly desirous of meeting this summer—Dingwall, Ellis and——Harrison. Yours very truly, ARTIE JOHNNY HUSS."

Also one more extract, which shows what Huss and I were up to:

"I have no objection, whatever, to 'bulldozing' the fellows at the Napa! Say the word! We will do all we can to run this

thing. No one else seems to have gumption enough to go at it."

In his July *Stylus*, Huss had the following criticism:

"The Welcome Visitor is, editorially considered, the best paper we receive. Harrison's style is clear, he writes to the point, reasons well, crticises impartially, and has all the characteristics of a successful journalist."

As a companion to that "puff," is the following from a department in Scofield *Our Sanctum:*

Who is the ablest editor in amateurdom? This question we have revolved and studied and have come to the conclusion that the honor belongs to Harrison, of the Welcome Visitor. He is the only editor who has proposed any thing whereby amateurdom may be benefited, in which any interest has been taken. He writes with simplicity and directly to the point, making his paper one of our spiciest exchanges."

On June 10th John J. Kramer editor of the *Idle Hour*, and Milton J. Finch, both prominent amateurs, paid Indianapolis a visit, and Frank M. Morris and myself had the pleasure of their company for a day or so. Evidently Kramer was much impressed by both "The Duke" and myself, for he printed the following in the next issue of his journal:

"Our Visit:—Pleasure and profit is the

appropriate title by which we shall ever remember our trip to Indianapolis. Pleasure in meeting Frank M. Morris, editor of the *Aldine*, and Thos. G. Harrison, of the Welcome Visitor, seeing the sights and having a glorious time in general. Profit in seeing, and studying the character of the future president of the W. A. P. A., and in being convinced of his abilities. Thos. G. Harrison, the boy supported by every large western paper, is worthy—aye, is worthy not only of the position to which he now aspires, but to any office for which he may be nominated. We have also chosen our candidate for 1879, of the N. A. P. A.; one not to be surpassed as a gentleman and parliamentarian. We whisper "The Duke."

To the June *Aldine*, I contributed the only editorial I ever wrote on the "Postal Troubles," and wherein I wasted considerable eloquence and rhetoric. Also a number of short items.

This issue of the *Aldine* published a classification of the amateur authors who were then prominently in the ranks, written by Mills. It gives a tolerably correct view of the different authors' merits, so I republish it:

"First Class.—Farley, 1; Snyder, 2; Mills, 3; Heuman, 3; Miller, 3; Granville, 4.

Second Class.—Gee, 1; "Loreli," 2; "Nettie Sparkle," 2; Harrison, 3; Huss, 3; W. J. Campbell, 3; Newsome, 4; Stuvysant, 4; "N. Netos," 4, "Mahdlo," 4.

Third Class.—This class includes many writers of whose ability no perceptible diff-

erence is discernible, and comprises such authors as "Bimlich," "Harrago," "Mikado," "Buz," Mansback, Ludwig, "Mon Myrtle," and numerous others, who favor the fraternity with an article once or twice, and then vanish from sight. The classification is based upon prose composition, and no account taken of their talents as poets, editors, correspondents or paragraphists. The figure following the author's name indicates the position he holds in his respective group or class."

Mills had another article in this issue of the *Aldine*, wherein a comparison of my authorial ability was made, in speaking about Huss, "whose name was gradually being mentioned among such amateur writers as "Winslow," "Yelraf," Mills, Granville, Heuman, and "Nameless." This "did me proud," and flattered me to the "top of my bent."

During June I received a great many notices and was correspondingly happy. My campaign for the presidency of the Western A. P. A. was progressing favorably, my supporters were enthusiastic, and beyond one or two papers, there was but little vigorous opposition.

The June *Amateur Mercury* and *Amateur Globe*, published biographical sketches of my amateur career, as also did the July *Western Boys*. Before the *Amateur Globe* was all printed, its editor, Otto A. Nieder-

meyer, died, and the issue was finished by a youth named Fischer.

The *Amateur Mercury* poured red-hot shot into the enemy's camp by printing a comparison between Morris and myself, wherein it drew a picture of what we both had done. The article ended as follows:

"We want a man who will work for the Wapa's welfare, one who put his foot on idleness, (*a la* Chase) and crush it out of existence; one who will advance good ideas to the fraternity, and a wide-awake, competent officer, and that man is Thos. G. Harrison, and *he will be elected.*"

The following are current press notices, which tell the story of my doings, and how I stood in the estimation of my cotemporaries better than I could write it:

"We have nothing to say against Mr. Harrison's candidacy further than to state the fact that he has yet to connect himself with the W. A. P. A. At Chicago, next July, he will probably join the association, and should he prove himself a good and faithful member, no one will be more willing to place him in the presidential chair than ourself. As it is, he is not a member of the W. A P. A., and it is not right to encourage his aspirations. His candidacy is a presumption and it cannot be regarded in any other light." —*Carbondale Criterion.*

"T. G. Harrison, of the Welcome Visitor, is an editor of no little capability."—Bassett's *Monthly Post and Tribune.*

"The Editor's Lyceum, of which we made mention in last month's *Comet*, will be organized on the day the W. A. P. A. convenes at Chicago, as the idea meets with universal approval. We get our facts from the Welcome Visitor, the originator of the idea. By the way, the Visitor is one of our most wide-awake exchanges, and we would favor its editor for the W. A. P. A. presidency."—*Comet.*

"We think that the Welcome Visitor may be accused of having common (or uncommon) sense."—*Monthly Casket.*

"In making a selection for president of the Wapa, let us elect an enterprising, wide-awake, active amateur. Such a man, we are glad to say, we have selected as our nominee. Where can be found a man more suited for the position than Geo. Harrison, the renowned editor of the Welcome Visitor? Is he not actively engaged as editor, author and printer? Does it not take enterprise to issue a paper with such regularity as his? Does his paper not evince that he is wide-awake and faithfully laboring for the noble cause of Amateurdom? To these questions there can be but one answer, and that is "yes." Therefore, fellow amateurs, vote for Harrison—one who will promote the welfare of our association—one who will raise it to such a high standard, that it may ever be a model to the rising generation of amateurs."—*Western Boys.*

"The Welcome Visitor is a paper of no small editorial ability."—*Apex.*

"If there were no amateur politics, we would have no Welcome Visitor. Column after column is filled with campaign notes, "new ideas," etc. In the May number we fail to find but one literary article in the paper, and that is a short review of a book of poems. If the Welcome Visitor is to be considered as an amateur newspaper, it will do; but as a literary journal we fail to recognize its claims."—Wm. F. Buckley, in O'Connell's *Phoenix.*

"Harrison aspires to the presidency of an association, of which he is not a member, and to the support of which he has contributed nothing. He expects western amateurs to disregard the claims of an old member and faithful worker, and elect him to the chief office, at the first meeting he attends. We shall see whether the western amateurs are such fools."—*Carbondale Criterion.*

"Harrison will probably meet the opposition to the St. Louis candidates, but by his libelous slanders of a respected amateur, he has forfeited a great deal of respect from the amateur community, and his support will merely extend to the circle of his immediate friends."—Frank L. Seaver's *Brilliant.*

The Wapa contest is now narrowed down to Harrison and Morris, with the odds largely in favor of the former. Put them before an impartial critic and let them be judged on their merits, only, and the result will be a decision in favor of Harrison. Morris vaunts what he says to behis claims to the position: these are that he paid the printer's bill of the last Wapa, which is equivalent to saying

that he also bought the members' votes by doing so—will the members stand this insult? His other "claim" is the fact of his publishing a paper, but this is thrown in the shade when it is ascertained that Harrison has issued five times as many numbers as this "man of claims." As an editor he stands no comparison with the Indiana candidate, whose editorials are scholarly, to the point, terse, and always interesting, and he is constantly originating some scheme to benefit his brother amateurs, while his opponent must plagiarize the thoughts of others and express them differently. Harrison does not parade and boast of his claims, but prefers to let amateurs judge for themselves, and does not wait for a nomination to stimulate him to publish a paper. In addition to being an editor, he is a splendid author, a good poet, a beautiful printer and book publisher, none of which accomplishments are possessed by his opponent."—Ed. B. Swift's *Exponent.*

"No editor in the ranks is more forward in proposing advantageous schemes than T. G. Harrison, of the Welcome Visitor."—Jos. P. Clossey's *Our Free Lance.*

"Morris and Harrison are the most popular Wapa candidates, and the contest will be between them alone. It would seem that Morris is the winning candidate, as he has a large support in the western section, but if the Indiana and Ohio amateurs should attend, the contest will be much closer. Both are well qualified for the position, but we hope that Morris will succeed."—*Hawkeye Boy.*

"We shall support Thos. G. Harrison for president of the Wapa, because we consider him the best man in the field; he is an able editor, an excellent author and has done more for the good of the 'dom than all the other nominees together. He is a good parliamentarian and a gentleman in every respect."—*Make or Break.*

"PUT HIM TO BED.—Because a Harrison once occupied the presidential chair of the United States, because a few weeks ago, Hon. Benj. Harrison, of Indianapolis, was one of the judges of the great oratorical contest at St. Louis, it does not follow that Thos. G Harrison, of Indianapolis, will be put in the presidential chair of the W. A P. A. Not much. Such audacity as he, who is *not even a member* of the W. A. P. A., displays in attempting to palm himself off as a chap who should have the office, is only equalled by the calm cheek of the great fraud now in the presidential chair of the U. S.

Harrison's *nom de plume*, "Nameless," well befits him. When Condie, the founder of Amateurdom, issued the *Portfolio*, had he but known that such a follower as Thomas George Harrison would have the brass to run for so high an office as president of the W. A. P. A., he would have immediately pied his forms, sold his press for old iron, disposed of his entire edition to the ragman, and erased the name of the *Portfolio* from the scrolls of fame.

But alas! he could not, and such things are permitted in these days of enlightenment. The only consolation we have, is that Thos.

George's forwardness, his bold presumption, will be sternly rebuked at the election in Chicago. Such are the remedies to be applied to this monomaniac—aggravated cases need strong medicine and Harrison will discover that a presuming, incompetent and undeserving youth, like himself, will be tripped up and a check put upon his forwardness." Will Carter's *Pen and Press.*

The last notice was the bitterest attack that I had during the campaign, and the only one I replied to. From the tenor of the clippings from the amateur press, that I have published, my readers can see that the opposition to my candidacy was not very formidable, nor very antagonistic.

The close of the Western A. P. A. campaign left me in the lead, but with a doubt as to the Chicago vote. At this time there were nearly forty amateurs in Chicago, and as it was presumable that they would join the association, their support, in case of there so doing, would undoubtedly prove the balance of power. So the campaign ended with feelings of hope on my part, but with the determination to accept defeat gracefully, if it came. But being confident of the support of Dingwall and Mills, I was reasonably sure of winning.

The National Association's campaign closed, leaving everything as regards the candidate for the presidency in a like state

of confusion. The vote of Chicago was apparently split between Hall and Hancock, with a large support for both outside of the city. Kendall failed to gain much support in the West. Clossey's support consisted of a great number of the ablest editors, and for that reason I conjectured that his prospects were favorable for election.

Clossey's opponents seemed to be afraid that he would use money towards paying railroad fares of his supporters and in buying votes. Hall held out to his supporters the inducement of a banquet at his expense.

Early in July the supporters of Hancock were thrown into a flurry by a report, afterwards claimed to be bogus, that Hancock had declined the nomination for the presidency in favor of Hall. This report was afterwards said to have been circulated by Hall men, as a campaign dodge to gain support for their candidate, and it deceived a great many supporters of Hancock, but did not have the effect of driving them into line for Hall. Since the convention, however, it has been thought that the report was not entirely without foundation, and only denied, because it was found to not improve Hall's chances of election.

Clossey issued his *Our Free Lance* in July in magnificent style, it having sixteen

pages of four columns each, and this issue undoubtedly comprises the best paper ever published by a member of the fraternity. He also published the *Jersey Blue*, under the *nom de plume* of "Cyril Vane," by which he had achieved some notoriety.

But the greatest sensation of the campaign was the accusation of plagiarism brought against Arthur J. Huss, first by the *Pierian* and then by Charlie Young's *Our Own Journal*. Huss was accused of plagiarzing *verbatim*, a sketch from a publication entitled "Gold, Silver, Lead," and the allegation was so deftly worded and the facts seemed so plain, that, at the start, everyone was deceived, and Huss' defeat for the vice presidency seemed a foregone conclusion. But upon his denial of the charge, and the establishment of the fact that a copy of the alleged publication, "Gold, Silver, Lead," could not be obtained by any interested party, it was supposed that the charge was but another "campaign dodge," although Alonzo P. Brown, the author of the accusation, asserted the truth of it all during his amateur career.

This was a very bitter campaign—more so than any before or since. Hall was probably the most abused candidate, and his letter to the amateurs at the Davenport conven-

tion of the W. A. P. A., wherein he harshly criticised the amateurs at the Long Branch convention of the National, on being printed, made him the subject of some most scathing invectives and vituperation. Next to Hall, Clossey was the most slandered, his enemies bringing every possible charge against him. Kendall and Hancock came in for their share, too, but the latter was "let down easy."

I did not publish my June VISITOR until Saturday, July 13th, getting it out then to take to the convention for distribution. This issue was of four pages, and contained editorials on "Amateur Press Associations," "How We Criticise," "What is Coming," and "N. A. P. A.," besides a Critic's League Department, book review and short notes.

The editorial upon the N. A. P. A. was in reference to the campaign and in praise of Clossey and Mills. It was written carefully and contained no enthusiastic assertions but a plain expression of opinion, which carries more weight than any thing else. The editorial on "What is Coming," referred to the coming conventions, of course, and presented some ideas as to what should be done by the amateurs assembled. In the editorial on "Amateur Press Associations," I argued in favor of them, and in controversy with some few editors who had lately been at-

tacking the advisability of their existence. The editorial upon "How We Criticise," was an attack upon those writers who had been placing Appearance above Worth, in amateur journals, and an exposition of my own views. I give the last paragraph:

"We advocate the expression of concise sentences, but we do not think it best to leave out main points for the mere sake of brevity. In an argument or discussion of a topic, all the points that can be brought to bear upon the subject should be used, but these points should be shown in as few words as possible. Elaborate expressions, however overflowing with choicest rhetoric, soon tire a reader, who speedily classes the writer as one of those animals that like to hear themselves bray."

In this issue I made an attack upon the *Pen and Press*, which had published the article I have printed some pages back, and I asserted that "One of the most laughable instances of utter imbecility ever displayed in the amateur ranks, lately came to our notice in the perusal of the *Pen and Press*, an amateur paper from Cincinnati. The one thing noticable is a ludicrous attempt of the editors to introduce in their articles as many long and flowery words as their immature brains have recollection of, and not being well versed in their use, a conglomeration of syllables, without hardly any sense displayed, whatever, is the result. * * * The *Pen and Press* has not the learning it

aspires to—it cannot fill the position it endeavors,—its attempt at rhetoric are too palpably forced, and it can be easily seen that it makes pretensions to what is far beyond its capability. In addition to its absurd language, the whole paper is full of typographical errors, and presents, throughout, such an exhibition of botchwork, that it surpasses anything we have ever before seen in this line. It is such papers as these that the professional press have in view when they speak of amateur journalism as "Childs play."

I met Carter, the editor of the *Pen and Press*, at Chicago, and there gave him a copy of this issue of the VISITOR. He took my criticism good-naturedly and he and I remained on friendly terms. In fact he was in my room in the Palmer House a good deal, and confidentially told me, before the W. A. P. A. convention met, that he wished he could vote for me, preferring me to Morris, but as he had promised to support the latter, he could not do so, but would compromise the matter by not voting at all. Hence he did not join the association, and Morris lost a vote.

Just before going to Chicago, Frank M. Morris and I got up an anonymous convention sheet which we dubbed "*The Terror.*" It consisted of two pages of three columns each, the first being printed in blue ink and

the second in black. The contents comprised one editorial and sixty four paragraphs, which I wrote, and four pieces of doggerel poetry from Morris' pen, everything being on the subject of the conventions and the candidates. The first poem was a "Prophecy," and predicted Hall's election; the second was an "Ode to the Blushing Georgie Harrison;" the third about "Wicked Windy," and the fourth "Excelsior Hall," all being rather witty and they excited much amusement. The *Terror* supported no candidate for any office, but gave them all a rub; even myself came in for a share. I tried to disguise my style of writing to some extent, and worded my sentences awkwardly. The editorial on "The Candidates," I reprint entire, as it gives an idea of what the *Terror* was.

"None of the candidates for the presidential chair of the N. A. P. A. are worthy of that position—or in other words, there are those in our ranks who deserve it more than they do. There is Clossey, who has done little for Amateurdom—a bashful fellow, without any gumption about him; Hall an insignificant fellow, who would never have been heard of were it not that his command of money enabled him to travel around to a number of amateur conventions, and thus establish a large personal acquaintance. His ability is but mediocre—his wire pulling pain-

fully evident. He has never done anything to raise Amateurdom's fame and never will. Hall, as president of our association, would prove a complete failure. Hancock is an insignificant punster, a poor writer and his general ability is of a low standard. As a punster he is a success—as an editor a gorgeous failure. Personal popularity alone secured his nomination. Kendall is another stick-in-the-mud. Seven years in the amateur ranks secured him the title of the "best puzzler." Best puzzler, indeed! Chief of a class whose connection with Amateurdom is precarious in the extreme—a class composed of the weakest talent in the 'Dom, for it has been quoted before that 'any fool can be a puzzler.' We question Kendall's title to the name of 'amateur,' He edits no paper—contributes nothing to the amateur press—not even puzzles, and intends retiring entirely, if defeated. A man of weak, insiped brain, his election to the presiding office of the Napa would prove to be an egregious mistake. These four men are not at all worthy. The two nominees for vice-president, Mills and Huss, are their superiors in every way."

The *Terror* was a clean sheet and was well liked by every one.

Sunday night, July 14th, I boarded the train for Chicago, accompanied by Will. E. Davidson, of Lafayette, who had been visiting me for a week or so previous. I had a pass for two, and took Davidson along with the intention of "using him," if need be, by

having him join the W. A. P. A. and vote for me. Early Monday morning we rolled into the beautiful "Lake City," and on our arrival at the depot found no traces of a "reception committee," so valises in hand we plodded our way to the Palmer House, which was to be the headquarters for the week. As we walked in the hotel we noticed some amateurish looking youths lounging about, but feeling tired and dirty, we secured a room and were conducted to it, where we removed some of the grime entailed by a night's ride over the Hoosier corn-fields. My room was a corner one, and larger than that had by any other amateur present and during the week it was made headquarters for all the boys, especially for my friends and supporters. When I found my way down stairs again, and was looking expectantly about, I was approached by a tall, angular, lantern-jawed youth, who enquired if my name was not Harrison. An affirmative response elicited the information that he was Gee—Del. W. Gee, of the *Southern Star*, Washington, D. C. Then the fun commenced with me, Gee introducing me right and left, he having been in the city since Saturday and became well acquainted.

I soon learned that Dingwall had been in the city, but had been called home on ac-

count of the sickness of a relative, that Clossey had not yet arrived, that the famous "Winslow" was on hand, that Huss was there, and a score of illustrious names were mentioned as being present. Wyndham A. Morris had "arriv,'" as had also two of his supporters from Iowa, Warren Moore and Chas. G. Wilson, of the *Amateur Iowan.*

After a short walk with Gee, during which we tramped over two miles trying to find some soda water, and failed, only to return to the hotel and be disgusted at discovering a "fountain" right around the corner, I hunted up some of the western boys and was soon engaged in discussing the probable result of the Western and National campaigns.

Here I first met Chas. S. Elgutter, of Omaha, Neb., then one of my supporters, and a warm friend afterwards, and from the first I was much impressed with his ability, and took a great liking to him. Elgutter was accompanied by Ed. L. Williams, publisher of the *Make or Break*, of Omaha, a large edition of which he had brought with him, containing the publication of a series of letters between Wynd. A. Morris and Elgutter, which were calculated to injure the former's candidacy for the Western association's presidency.

On meeting with J. W. Snyder, I was disappointed, more by his manner of greeting than anything else, mentally characterizing it as "too oily," in which criticism I have since found that I did not stand alone, by any means, it being remarked by many others. However, I gazed at Snyder with considerable reverence, he having been the greatest amateur of his day, and reached the pinnacle of amateur glory.

My meeting with my opponent, Wyndham A. Morris, and with Arthur J. Huss, was interesting to me, as also was the first greeting with Hall, Hancock, Palmer, Chase, Young and others whom I will not mention now. But there were many famous amateurs already present, and in this particular the Chicago meeting outshone all others, previous and since.

Everybody was in a whirl of excitement, which was intense, and I think this fact accounts for there being no reports afterwards published that were anything like complete. The boys were too worked up to take criticising notes.

The political aspect changed with each hour, as the trains came in with fresh arrivals. Hall's strong support was admitted, but on Monday, Hancock appeared to be in the lead, it being said that Hall having only three

votes out of the entire twenty-three or four which Chicago would cast, Hancock having the rest. Clossey was also standing well, many of his supporters being already present. Kendall had dropped out of sight and it was known on Monday that he would inevitably be defeated.

In the Western campaign, I had reason to be satisfied. Assurances of support from many amateurs present who had not avowed their choice previously, and the expectation of a number of my friends arriving on the following day, made my friends and myself confident that I would be elected, although in a conversation with Chas. G. Wilson, Warren Moore and some other supporters of Morris, they claimed that he would win.

The weather was terribly hot—it was that hot week in July, 1878, in which so many deaths from sunstroke occurred, all over the United States, twenty to thirty persons dying in Chicago, every day, from the effects of the intense heat, and the amateurs stood around the corridors of the hotel, all the hotter from the excitement in which they were in.

My room was a corner one, with several windows, and one of the coolest places I could find, and here there was a constant stream of amateurs all day long for the first

two days, and all would shed their coats and collars in an effort to keep cool.

The Illinois Amateur Press Association, was called to order by President Will. T. Hall at 2 p. m. Monday afternoon, in the "club room" of the Palmer House, which room had been assigned to the amateur journalists for the purpose of holding their conventions during the week. This room was appropriately called the "little glass furnace," by Will. Wright, and I believe it was the hottest place in all hot Chicago. The convention was but slimly attended by those who desired to become members, but a large number of us—amateurs from different states—visited the convention, as we were curious to observe Hall's ability as a presiding officer, and I must say that he made a very favorable impression at the time.

Will. L. Wright, of Cairo, Illinois, was elected president by acclamation, and my opponent of two years afterwards made his first political step here, as I did also.

Monday evening, through the exertions of Geo. W. Hancock, who was universally popular and well-liked, the amateurs in attendance, were passed in the New Chicago Variety Theatre, in a body, and about thirty of us attended and took front seats. Nearly

all carried canes and when the boys applauded a pretty actress or pleasing comedian, they had to return; in one case, I believe the encore was six times.

Tuesday morning, Clossey arrived, and engaged parlors at the Palmer. At first he was a little bashful about meeting the boys, and from this fact the report was circulated that he was haughty and "stuck-up," in consequence of which he undoubtedly lost some support. I found Clossey to be a thoroughly companionable fellow, although naturally diffident and backward in forming acquaintances. This told against him, particularly as Hall and Hancock were actively circulating among the boys, a number of whom were young and easily influenced.

Six votes for Hall came in Tuesday morning, from Mendota, Ills., a place Hall had visited during the winter on electioneering intent, and it was now asserted that eleven of the Chicago amateurs would vote for him. This placed his chances ahead, and it now appeared that the contest would resolve between he and Clossey. Hall men were jubilant, but Clossey's supporters were not downhearted, as large reinforcements were still expected.

Tuesday morning I received a large number of an edition of the *Snark*, just from the

press, edited by J. L. Watson, a candidate for the presidency of the Western A. P. A., which were sent to me for destribution among the boys present, as in this issue Watson announced his resignation of the nomination in my favor, and requested that his supporters cast their influence for me. But as he did not have any supporters present, unless Hancock was one, I do not think his retirement in my favor did me much good.

Tuesday afternoon, right after dinner, a caucus of some of my supporters was held in my room, and my friends claimed my election as beyond a doubt.

Tuesday afternoon, at 3 p. m., the Western A. P. A. was called to order by president Clement C. Chase, and I attended with a beating heart, to learn the result—victory or defeat. After the usual miscellaneous business had been transacted, a disturbance was created by Will. A. Innes, whom I had met at the first convention of the Indiana A. P. A., and a few other old amateurs, who protested against the existence ot the association under the present name, alleging that they were members of a "Western Amateur Press Association," which by right of priority in use was entitled to that name; but suggested that the present association be consolidated with the old one, which they (Innes and

others) represented. In point of fact there had been a "Western A. P. A," which had never held a convention out of Michigan, Ohio or Illinois, but it had not met at all for the last two years. So Innes' proposition was rejected, and he and his friends would not join the association, and I lost their votes, for all had been promised me, if they did join.

When "applications for membership" were in order, my name was proposed, along with but eight others, which with eleven old members present, made a total attendance of twenty one. This was surprising at the time, as there were any number of western amateurs in the room, but after investigation revealed the fact that the two dollars dues had prevented many of them from joining. Many of my friends whom I had expected to vote for me and who had promised that they would, were among the number, as no doubt were also friends of Morris. The attendance in this shape, knocked all my calculations, and at the beginning of the session I was totally ignorant as to what was *likely* to be the result.

But I did not have long to wait. After one or two reports had been read, the election of officers was announced. Wyndham A. Morris, C. C. Chase and Thos. G. Harrison

were nominated for the presidency. Chase declined the nomination, and the ballot was then taken. With breathless suspense I listened for the announcement, and with a sense of crushing defeat and mortification did I learn that Morris had received 9 votes and I only 7, he being thus elected by a majority of two. I leaned back in my chair in the rear of the room, and inwardly "cussed" those recreant friends of mine who were present and whose support would have elected me. Why wasn't Dingwall there—where was Mills? And I heard the cheer of the victorious Morris faction, and I saw Morris take the presidential chair, and I listened to his incoherent and disconnected speech, wherein he returned thanks. The election of officers proceeded, Frank L. Webster was elected first and Louis C. Spruance, second vice president, and I was made partially happy by seeing how miserably Morris presided, and noting his unfitness for governing an association, and entire lack of the knowledge of parliamentary law. Then it occured to me that it was rather queer that there had not been more votes counted, and on counting the members present, I saw that there must have been two votes that had not been announced, so I whispered this to Huss, who arose and

moved that the proceedings of the association up to that time be declared null and void, and a recess taken, to examine the ballots on the presidency. This caused a babel of confusion—everyone was on their feet at once—and poor Morris lost his head and could do nothing towards restoring order. But the motion was seconded, put by Morris—a bitter pill, no doubt—and carried. During the recess of five minutes, the tellers again examined the ballots, and in the inside lining of the hat in which they had been put, Hancock found two more that had been cast for me. When this was announced my feelings changed to joy. Evidently I had a clear majority, and would be elected.

At the expiration of the time given for the recess, Chase again called the association to order, and Morris took his previous seat. The proposition of Innes was again brought forward, but again rejected. Nominations for the presidency were again made, Morris, Chase and myself being the nominees, Chase not declining this time, probably thinking that as a "black horse," he would stand a good chance of again obtaining the presidency, by reason of the "squabble" which had arisen. As a matter of fact, Chase was nominated by one of my supporters, at my

own suggestion, to draw support from Morris.

The announcement of the ballot revealed that I had received nine votes, Morris seven and Chase two. No one receiving a majority of the votes cast, a second ballot was necessary. Chase's name was withdrawn, and the ballot resulted in my election by a vote of ten to nine.

A cheer went up from my friends, both among the members of the association, and the visitors in attendance, and at the request of president Chase to take the chair, I stepped to the front, and pushing past Morris, who sat in my way, on the right hand of Chase, and did not move his legs out of my path, I took the coveted position, grasped the gavel, and assumed the presidency of the Western Amateur Press Association. In so doing I was afterwards censured by some of my opponents who claimed that Morris had been cheated out of the office, but of that, more hereafter.

Of course I felt elated—more so than I might have been, because the office had so nearly slipped my fingers, and I doubt if there had ever been another amateur in the ranks who has felt the full bitterness of defeat and the elation of victory all in one half an hour. But it was all over—the spoils were mine, fairly gained, and the triumph was sweet.

I did not make a speech. Under the circumstances I could not trust myself, so I merely thanked the members for the honor conferred, and then called for the nominations for the vice presidency.

Webster and Spencer were again elected to the positions they had just been thrown out of, Willis H. Allen was elected secretary, Frank L. Seaver, treasurer, and the *Amateur Iowan* was chosen official organ. St. Louis was chosen as the next place of meeting, the constitution amended in a slight degree, but very hurriedly, and after the transaction of some little miscellanous business the association adjourned for one year.

The amateurs who cast their votes for me on the last ballot were Henry S Livingstone, a noted author and editor of *Our Olio* in '74, Geo W. Hancock, of the *Club*, Will T. Hall, of the *Western Amateur*, Arthur J. Huss, of the *Stylus*, Frank L. Misner, of the *Acorn*, Ralph Van Vechten, of the *Rounce*, Chas. S. Elgutter and Ed. B. Williams of the *Make* or *Break*, Will L. Wright, of the *Egyptian Star*, and Henry P. Hull of the *Boys of the West.*

The votes for Morris on the last ballot were cast by Frank L. Webster, of the *Kansas Graphic*, L. C. Spruance, of the *Boys Press*, Frank L. Seaver, of the *Brilliant*,

C. C. Chase, of the defunct *Omaha Excelsior*, Willis H. Allen of the defunct *Carbondale Criterion*, Henry Wilson, of the *Clipper*, Sam Clover, of the *Echoes of the Board*, and Warren Moore and Chas. G. Wilson, of the *Amateur Iowan.*

Tuesday evening, Stanton S. Mills, Frank M. Morris, and others of my friends put in an appearance, too late, of course, to do me any good. After supper the boys amused themselves in various ways—some going to the theatre, and others "taking in the town." Some remained at the hotel, as I did, spending the time far into the night in conversation upon amateur topics, and forming better acquaintanceship, which was far more interesting to us than the amusements which the great Lake City presents to the visitor, and all awaited with impatience the convening of the National A. P. A.—the great event of the week.

At 10.30 o'clock Wednesday morning July 17th, the third convention of the National A. P. A. was called to order by vice president John W. Snyder, with about 85 amateur editors and authors present, and he delivered an eloquent address, which was loudly applauded, and served to increase the already great enthusiasm which every one felt. A. J. Huss was elected secretary, *pro*

tem, and the usual business of the reading of minutes, officers reports, admission of members, etc., was transacted. A committee was appointed to examine the credentials of applicants for membership, and then the constitution, which had been prepared during the preceding year by Will. B. Graff, Chas. H. Young and Wm. B. Henry, was read by Young, the only one of the committee who was present. He took a rest of a few minutes, after reading some time, while Stanton S. Mills, the appointed orator of the occasion, delivered an excellent address upon "The Professional *vs.* the Amateur," which he handled in an able manner. Young then finished reading the constitution, which was then voted upon, clause by clause, and adopted with several amendments, made by Clossey and others. I did not have anything to say at that time about the constitution, but two years afterwards instituted the revision of a great deal of that document. The adoption of this constitution was the source of a great deal of congratulation upon the part of the members present who really took an interest in the association, and they felicitated themselves on the association now possessing a constitution which they thought would do a great deal towards making the National popular, and bringing all amateurs to its support.

A recess was taken, after the constitution had been adopted, until two o'clock, when the association was again called to order. A letter from the corresponding secretary, Will. E. Leaning was read, and also "letters of regret" from a number of prominent amateurs.

The committee on credentials, which was equally composed of supporters of Hall, Hancock and Clossey, then reported that 21 applications for membership had been challenged, of which the committee had seen fit to expel but four,—Lay, Demarest, Downs and Griggs, all residents of Chicago. These four had all previously been active amateurs but were not then connected with the ranks. It was moved that the association act upon each one of the four's admission, separately, and upon this being done, all were elected to membership, despite the earnest protests of the Clossey supporters. Of course all four of these amateurs were supporters of Hall, and they were elected members by the votes of Hall men. J. Fred Eberle, of Philadelphia, was also admitted to membership, although he was challenged in the convention, by Clossey, on the ground that he was a contributor to the New York boy's professional papers, which, in fact, he was; but Eberle was elected a member, nevertheless.

At this stage, of course it was seen that Hall held the winning hand, but how much so was not known until after the ballots had been taken. The Clossey men, however, struggled vigorously for their rights and for fair play, but were defeated in every attempt that was likely to injure Hall.

For the presidency, Hall, Hancock, Clossey and Kendall were placed in nomination, the latter by his chief supporter, Gee, with the intention of giving him a complimentary vote, at least, and the ballot was taken, each member walking up to the tellers, as his name was called, and depositing his vote. The result of the first ballot was as follows:

Total number of votes cast.....73.
Necessary to a choice.....37.
Hall.....35.
Clossey.....19.
Hancock.....12.
Kendall.....7.

A wild cheer burst from the Hall men, whose victory was now conceded by all. Hall had managed his campaign with great adroitness. Hancock's vote was a surprise to the supporters of Clossey, and it has been thought and was so said, afterwards, that he had only been running in the interests of Hall, to hold that portion of the Chicago vote with whom the latter was personally

unpopular, and keep it from going to a strong opponent. While this has been currently rumored, it has never been substantiated, but if it was true, Hall certainly was entitled to credit for the dodge.

The second ballot resulted as follows:

Total number of votes cast	71.
Necessary to a choice	36
Hall	39.
Clossey	22.
Hancock	10.

and Wm. T. Hall was declared elected president of the National A. P. A.

For the vice presidency, Hancock, Huss and Mills were nominated, and Huss elected on the first ballot, receiving 38 votes of the 67 cast to Mills' 17 and Hancock's 12. Mills had made himself unpopular by challenging illegal votes, and was probably defeated because a number of amateurs were jealous of his superior attainments. And then Huss undoubtedly had made a "deal" with the Hall men, for he held their support, almost to a man. Hancock's nomination for the vice presidency was probably not preconcerted, as it has supposed to have been by some. At any rate, two successive defeats in one day must have been enough for that youth. Fred. M. Cornell, of New York, was unani-

mously elected second vice president, and Frank M. Morris, of Indianapolis, third vice president. I was influential in electing Morris, claiming that office for him from Hall and his supporters. Gee was unanimously elected recording secretary, and J. F. Eberle was elected corresponding secretary by a vote of 25 to 10 for Griggs, of Chicago, and 10 for Graff, of Brooklyn, and 4 for Carter, of Cincinnati, receiving a majority of one vote. Willis H. Allen received 33 votes for the treasurership to 15 for Daugherty, of Pittsburg and 10 for Griggs, of Chicago.

J. W. Snyder was elected official editor by acclamation, but he declined the honor, and for a time the office went a begging, several amateurs being nominated for it, but they declined, not hardly knowing what was to be required of them, I suppose, until finally C C. Chase was nominated and elected.

The association then adjourned until the following morning, it being late. At eight o'clock the members of the National gathered in the dining rooms of the Palmer House, and partook of a cold "banquet," which was probably the worst in its way, as far as eatables are concerned, that has ever been dignified by the name. But the viands formed but a small portion of the entertainment, as the toasts and responses were the

features of the occasion. J. W. Snyder officiated as toast-master, and he was the back-bone of the occasion, making the responses to several of the toasts himself. The following are the toasts and sentiments:

"The National A. P. A.—Ever the hope of amateurdom. May these hopes be realized."

"Amateur Journalism—May it live to entertain, instruct, ennoble; to lift the standard of Juvenile Literature and to afford a school to Professional Journalism."

"Professional Journalism—May amateur journalism so progress that the sire will recognize and acknowledge the son."

"Our Host—The Garden City A. J. C.—They have given us a good time; may they find a reward laid up for them in the East."

"The Western A. P. A.—The National looks to it for support." Responded to by Chase.

"To the memory of Wm A. Fiske—May his name live surrounded by those same precious associations which preserved the memories of Farley and Barler."

This last toast was responded to by Stanton S. Mills, who made the oratorical event of the banquet, every one who heard his eloquent remarks uniting in enthusiastic applause.

After the toasts had been responded to, a number of amateurs were called on for

speeches, myself among the number, and the banquet ended with the "N.—A.—P.—A." cheer being given, the evening forming the pleasantest event of the week.

After the banquet, by previous arrangement, a number of amateur editors repaired to the room of Jos. P. Clossey for the purpose of organizing the "Editors' Lyceum"—my pet scheme. At ten o'clock p. m., I called the meeting to order, and stated the objects of the contemplated association. By motion, I was elected temporary chairman, and I then appointed A. J. Huss temporary secretary. Twenty-eight active amateur editors joined the Lyceum, and paid their dues. Huss then read the constitution and by-laws, which he and I had formed, which was adopted with but few changes. Joseph P. Clossey was unanimously elected president of the Lyceum, and took the chair, which he held the rest of the session with marked parliamentary ability. Geo. W. Hancock was elected first vice president, F. M. Morris, second vice, and also poet-laureate, and after transacting some miscellaneous business, the Lyceum adjourned at 11:15 p. m., this being its first and only meeting. Immediately after its adjournment, the editors present signified their desire to join the Critic's League, and I was unanimously elected League critic.

It was a great night for me, and the successful organization of my two plans, filled my cup of happiness to the brim.

After the organization of the League, "we were all tired enough to retire for the night," as one editor said in his report, and, indeed, enough had been accomplished that day to tire almost any one.

Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, the National was again called to order, but with a diminished attendance, many of the boys being out seeing the sights, and not particular at being present, now that the elections were over. President Hall appointed several committees, and then a place for the next meeting was to be chosen. Washington, Cincinnati and New York were proposed and Washington receiving 22 ballots out of the 41 cast, was declared appointed as the seat of the fourth convention. Miscellaneous business followed, nothing of particular interest being brought before the convention, however, except Young's motion to expel John B. Sewell from the association, on the charge of plagiarism, which was defeated. Finally, about noon, the National Association adjourned *sine die*, and the third convention was a thing of the past.

The Western A. P. A. held a short session immediately after the adjournment of the

National, for the purpose of voting the use of six dollars, for the payment of the balance of the bill due on the banquet, the entire funds in the treasury of the National having been exhausted in the payment of this bill, which had been thrust, unannounced, upon the association, by president Hall.

In the afternoon, the boys, to the number of forty, went to a base ball ground, and two nines being formed from among members of the Editors' Lyceum and the National Association, a match game of ball was played, the Lyceum club being beaten by a score of 21 to 28. The boys went out to the park in street cars which they monopolized, and astonished the natives by their display of blue ribbon badges, on which were printed the words "Chicago conventions, July 1878." Hancock's prowess at the bat made him admired by all observers. The boys enjoyed themselves thoroughly, as amateurs only will, when meeting at conventions. By this time every one was well acquainted with the others, as much so, almost, as if they had known each other for a long time, as, indeed, many had, through the medium of correspondence and exchanging papers.

Thursday evening the breaking up commenced, and many of the visitors left for their homes. Many of the boys lingered

around the hotel and discussed amateur affairs, while a large number took an excursion some twenty miles out on the lake, on the excursion steamer "*City of Deluth*," which was enjoyed hugely, even though some of the boys were taken sea-sick and suffered all the agonies of nausea. It was after the return, and at a late hour, when I went to my room with the intention of going to bed. But some one told me that there was to be a big pillow fight yet, and as there was three of my friends sharing my room by this time, we grasped our bolsters and prepared for the fray. Soon a number of youths came in, all armed with the inevitable pillow, and forays were organized to awake the sleepy-heads who had retired for the night, and "lambast" them, and as a consequence there were soon nearly thirty amateurs congregated in my room, the new recruits who had been "scared up," making their appearance, some in very much *dishabile*. An indiscriminate battle was fought, and then matches were made between the knights of the quill who were anything like equal size, until every one was tired. Finally a running fight was had all over the hallways of the hotel, and those who had barricaded their doors against the "midnight marauders," were allowed no peace. This

was kept up until the night clerk sent up the message, "For God's sake, gentlemen, be quiet! you have the whole house up!" and the boys once again repaired to my room, where the question was resolved, "What shall we do next," which was answered by forming ourselves in single file, and marching out of the hotel, down the street, to the music of several "French harps," until we came to what was called the "Alhambra Saloon." On our march, at nearly every corner, the "N.—A.—P.—V." cheer was given, from forty lusty throats; windows flew open, belated citizens paused and looked after us in amazement, and even the sleepy policemen emerged from their nooks, but these knew that 'twas "only the boys, having a lark." As we entered the "Alhambra," the employe's eyes metaphorically bulged with astonishment, it then being nearly one o'clock, but they hastened to obey directions, and get some of their tables in a circle. The "band organ" was wound up, and conviviality reigned.

One of the features of the meeting was the taking of a large photograph, 17x21 inches, of all the amateurs present. This was under the especial auspices of Geo. W. W. Carroll, "the originator of the plan," who, in his persistent hunting down the boys, for the pur

pose of having them join in, became well known. It was supposed that he had a commission paid him by the artist, and he was such a "sticking plaster." that the remarks made afterwards about "Geo. W. W. W. W.," as he was factiously called, were not very complimentary.

The *Monthly Casket*, a Chicago paper, was issued daily during the conventions, with a report of each meeting held.

Nearly every amateur in attendance had with him a large number of papers, and they were seen everywhere—the tables in the boys rooms were filled, the chairs, the lounges, and even the floors were covered. Campaign sheets were thick—campaign poetry, printed tickets—everything reminding the amateur that he was at a great convention.

While in the club room, on the first day of the N. A. P. A. convention, a friend of mine came to me and said that there was "a colored fellow, outside, who said he was an amateur." "Why doesn't he come in?" I asked, and my friend replied that he had requested him to enter, but that "the poor fellow, with tears in his eyes," had said that he did not like to, because he was afraid the boys would not like it, on account of his color. I mentioned this to several near me,

and we went out and hunted the boy up, greeted him warmly, and brought him in with us, and introduced him right and left. This was the first introduction of Herbert A. Clarke, then editor of the *Boys' Argus*, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, since made famous by a combination of circumstances, to the amateur fraternity. He was cordially greeted by all, and made to feel that an amateur was respected as an amateur, whatever his color. I think Clarke forgot that I was one of the first to greet him at Chicago, and take him by the hand, because I believe that afterwards he imagined that I was an opponent of Civil Rights, at the time of the discussion which brought him into notoriety.

Another notoriety at the convention, was Richard M. Truax, of the "insert the above and this for ten cents" fame, of '76. Dick was not much seen, but was pleasantly greeted.

Wm. Lay, Clarence P. Dresser, and Ira Rinaldo made themselves conspicuous by an exhibition of mountainous "cheek." Lay was a curly-headed, "sawed-off" youth, who circulated tickets announcing that he was a candidate for secretary of the National, and Rinaldo was on the order of a bar-room "bummer." Neither of these two had much right to the title of amateur journalist, but

enough to entitle them to membership in the National, at that time. Dresser was well-known to the whole fraternity, but he was a fellow of infinite "gush."

I came nearly forgetting to mention the "Harrison Investigating Committee," so jocularly called at the time, but afterwards made notorious as the "Clossey Investigating Committee," by Frank Reeve, in his *Independent Times*. This "committee" comprised Chas. H. Young, editor of *Our Own Journal*, of New York, Henry P. Hull, of Chicago, and myself, and was formed at my suggestion to examine into the facts why Clossey did not receive more votes. We questioned twenty-six amateurs who asserted to us that they had voted for Clossey, but there is no doubt that some of them eqivocated. But the evidence we collected made it appear that there was something "crooked" about the balloting, and the after publication of our statements caused much excitement and raised the cry of fraud against Hall. But I do not doubt that Hall would have been ultimately elected, even if he was not fairly so on the second ballot, as the remaining supporters of Hancock would probably have come over to him.

For a few weeks after the convention of the National, the fraternity was agitated by

the rumor that the meeting had not been legal, it being claimed that a quorum of the old members had not been present at the first assembling, and a number of editorials were written under the supposition of the truth of the report, by hot-headed amateurs but all doubts were presently set at rest by the quotation from the old constitution, stating that "any number of members shall constitute a quorum."

Friday morning I left Chicago, on my return home, enthusiastic over my trip, and with pleasant reminiscences.

The following are a few notices referring to myself, in connection with my Chicago visit and the W. A. P. A. convention:

"The two best editors in amateurdom favored the convention with their presence, Huss and Harrison."—*Rounce.*

"In the afternoon the W. A. P. A. had a stormy session, and succeeded in disgusting every one. As it now stands, we have two sets of officers—one legally and the other illegally elected. We fail to comprehend how a legal election can be declared null and void, and it surprises us greatly that two such parliamentarians as Hancock and Huss should become prime movers in such a scheme. We were also sorry to see Harrison allow his greed for office to get the better of all principles of right. He must surely know that his acceptance of the presidency, under the circumstances, only lowers him in the

estimation of his fellow workers in the cause."—H. W. Wilson, supporter of Morris, in the *Amateur Hoosier*.

" * * * The first ballot stood 9 to 7 in favor of Morris, and after a few remarks, he took the chair. The rest of the ticket was elected, and about that time three of Harrison's supporters came in, who were not there in time to vote, so a motion to declare all proceedings null and void was carried and Morris gave up the chair. This was entirely out of order, and Morris could have declared it so and kept the chair, but as the motion concerned himself, he did not feel disposed to do so."—*Amateur Iowan*, supporter of Morris.

"The Western Convention was a disgrace to the fraternity. Morris was legally elected by a majority of one, and was already installed as the future president of the W. A. P. A. He delivered his presidential speech, and they were about nominating the first vice, when a certain person said that the Western amateurs were not present in the room, and upon this ground the election was thrown over, and upon another ballot, Harrison was elected. Harrison is, by far, the best parliamentarian, but the position he occupies was given him through fraud. He knows it, and were he any sort of a gentleman, he would not occupy the chair given to him under such circumstances."—J. Fred. Eberle, in the *Boys' Gazette*.

"Wilson, in a report written by him, considers the election of Morris legal, and that of Harrison, illegal—*vice versa* is true. He

says he doesn't see how a legal election can be declared null and void. A legal election can be declared null and void if the members of an assembly see fit to do so, but the first ballot of this election was illegal. Two votes were cast for Harrison that were left in the hat, uncounted. On discovering this, a motion was made to declare the election null and void. Had those two votes been counted, which would have made the ballot a tie, no such motion would have been made. That there were two votes uncounted can be proven by Mr. Hancock and others."—*Rounce.*

"It is a matter of great joy to us, that W. A. Morris was defeated so signally for the presidency of the Western A. P. A. The supporters of Windy indulge in the fraud cry, also, and wildly claim that Harrison was illegally elected. The circumstances of the case seem to be as follows: The first ballot was taken with nineteen members present, Morris having nine votes and Harrison 8; total 17. Two votes had either not been cast or had been counted out, all the officers being Morris men. Nothing was said of this, however, and Windy took the chair. He had hardly delivered his prepared oration, thanking the convention, etc., when Hancock discovered two more Harrison ballots in the hat. This made ten votes for the Hoosier and nine for Morris. Recognizing the injustice done, it was immediately moved that the election be declared void, and the motion was sustained by a vote of ten to nine. Thus it will be seen that taking the

second ballot was only an act of justice, and that the only fraud perpetrated was by the Morris men, in not counting two of the votes cast. The omission, however, may have been unintentional."—*Acorn*, Nathan Cole's paper.

It will be seen by the above clippings, that the accounts differ very much; my own, however, I believe to be entirely correct.

Eastern amateurs were very bitter, for a time, against the way the western boys managed the convention of the National, and at the time it was rumored that no quorum had been present, a cry was made for a special convention. The East had previously demanded the presidency, and on the election of Hall, the western amateurs were upbraided for selfishness. The following will illustrate:

"The Chicago conventions are a shining and notable instance of the degeneracy of amateurdom in the west; the Napa election illegal, inactive amateurs elected to office, and *no* business of importance transacted. Another meeting held in the West would sound the death knell of the association. Fortunately, the next 'vention will be controlled by the Eastern and Southern boys; and the result will be a much better adjustment of the association's principle."—*Eastern Sunbeam.*

J. W. Snyder was accused of using his position as presiding offieer, in the interests

of Hall, and this report seemed to have foundation in the fact that while in Chicago, he was a guest of the latter. In consequence of this report, "Winslow" lost a great deal of his popularity, and was roundly abused by dissatisfied amateurs.

The election of Chase to the official editorship was severely commented upon, and condemned, as was also that of Eberle to the office of corresponding secretary.

Huss was accused, by one paper, of being the "Benedict Arnold" of amateurdom, "who in his insatiate thirst for office, sold out Kendall and Hancock to obtain it." Huss was said to be the only amateur east of Chicago, who voted for Hall.

But while an attempt was made to claim Clossey as the president *de jure*, no effort could be made to unseat Hall, and finally the cry of fraud wore out.

Before leaving this topic, I will republish a few comments from various journals:

"'Hall hasn't ability enough to edit a handbill,' but he had 'cheek' enough to get the presidency of the National A. P. A., and that is something, anyway."...."We have heard a great deal during our connection with amateur journalism, of the remarkable parliamentary ability displayed by J. Winslow Snyder. At the Chicago convention, last month, Mr. Young, of New York, raised the point of order that when a member's standing is in

question, and the legality of his election is under consideration, he is not allowed to vote on the question. Every new member had been called in question, and none of them had a right to vote in the matter. A committee was asked for, and Snyder appointed one composed of three amateurs who *were elected in the morning*, and whose election was under consideration! After this, we would rather not be told that Winslow displays great parliamentary ability!" ...."This was Kendall's third shy at the presidency...."All the officers elected were in attendance."....."The Chicago papers called the boys 'Kids' and 'Baby Editors.'" ..."It was said that Hall's father managed his campaign for him, and he was present at all three of the conventions."..."The Editors' Lyceum will squelch, in a measure, the eloquent political editorial writing, so remarkable during the last campaign. No editor belonging to the Lyceum can hoist a campaign ticket, or open any political discussion until one month prior to the convention. G-o-o-d!".....Of the twenty-three western cities represented, only six voted for Hall."

The boys had hardly returned home, before work on the next campaign had been commenced and Huss and Saml. J. Lawrence, of the *Eastern Star* were nominated for the presidency of the National, the former by the *Buffalo Amateur*, then just issued by Chas. G. Steele, afterwards well-known in the ranks.

After returning home from Chicago, I did little in the way of amateur journalism for about a month, when Frank M. Morris and I under our *nom de plumes* of "The Duke," and "Nameless," started the *Weekly Aldine* on August 17, each doing the type-setting. The *Weekly Aldine* was only designed as a temporary sheet, but it proved much more short-lived than we at first intended, expiring with its second issue. It was of eight columns, and the first issue contained a partial report of the Chicago conventions, a number of editorial items, and a salutatory under the profane title of "We Want to Raise Hell!" Such a title naturally attracted some attention, and many comments were made in reference to it by the amateur press. Nearly all of the editorial items were comments on the results of the conventions, as were also those of the second issue, which also contained a conclusion of the convention report, and a report of the meeting of the Ohio A. P. A., held at Hamilton, Ohio, August 21st, besides a "Review of the Week."

The *Weekly Aldine* was the only weekly amateur paper then published, and it was very flatteringly received.

Morris and I had an engraved heading made for it, previous to the second issue being printed, but upon placing the "form"

containing it, in the press, preparatory to using it, Frank mashed it all out of shape. Probably that was one reason of the paper's early demise. The disappointment was too much for us.

My election to the presidency of the Western A. P. A., brought me prominently before the amateurs of the entire country, and I received letters of "congratulation" from all sides. One immediate result was a demand made upon me for articles from my pen, and in looking over my old letters of this date, I see that I received quite a number of "orders" for effusions, which I was requested to send 'with price plainly marked,' but I answered very few of them.

Another result was to elevate me politically and I was the recipient of a number of communications bearing upon "the next campaign," and expressing a desire to "run" me for various offices, one youth, Wm. E. Nichols, then president of the Connecticut A. P. A. stating a desire to nominate me for the presidency of the National, and asking me how I thought my chances would be for election. I answered and told him that "I wouldn't have any chances—They belonged to the East, and the East intended to keep them."

Edward W. Frye, of the *Eastern Sunbeam*, of Boston, then just rising into prominence,

wrote to me and expressed his intention of nominating J. C. Worthington, of the *Literary World*, of Philadelphia, for the presidency of the National; but Worthington's retirement shortly afterwards, of course placed him out of the field of amateur politics.

Herbert Clark's *Le Bijou* was commenced in August, from Cincinnati, and the first issue contained an elaborate defense of the "Editors' Lyceum" against an attack which had been made against it by Will. K. Graff, in the *Unknown*.

From the time the *Weekly Aldine* expired until October, I was comparatively inactive in amateur journalism. On October 11th, the July and August number of the VISITOR was printed, in twelve column form. This issue contained a short essay on "Charles Dickens and Religion," by "The Duke," and a chapter of "Records of Amateur Journalism in 1877," by myself, which was not completed in print for a year afterwards. Editorials were published upon "The Western A. P. A.," and "Western *vs.* Western." In the first I stated my views as to the result of the late convention, giving them as I have in my account some pages back in this book. The editorial upon "The Western *vs.* Western," was in reference to an elaborate

attack which had been made upon "the association which we have the honor to represent," by Ernest A. Stowe, a well-known Michigan amateur, (and the original author of the declaration "Once an amateur, always an amateur," since quoted so frequently,) Stowe was one of the youths who had tried to consolidate the Western A. P. A. with the "old Western," and had "stood in" with Will. A. Innes. My reply covered two columns, and stated the facts in the case very clearly. I append the closing paragraph.

"Mr. Stowe would like to see the new association consolidated with the old, no doubt, and considering the circumstances, we can not blame him for his wish. But we will give him a few clear-headed opinions, which he can digest at his leisure. The new W. A. P. A. will stick to its name, as long as Amateurdom exists, and "kicking" against its existence is a perfectly fruitless task, which a boy as clear-headed as we take Stowe to be, ought to have seen long ago. The time to remonstrate was when the first "Call" was sent out from Omaha, nearly two years ago —now it is too late."

I was very enthusiastic in my regard for the Western A. P. A., and determined to uphold it against all enemies.

This issue of the VISITOR also contained an editorial on "Our Politics," of which I give a few sentences:

"* * * This course of early campaigning

is one that can not be too strongly condemned. We have the same thing over and over again each year—the same columns of abuse, praise, flattery and scandal appear regularly, with but the persons changed. Nothing new comes out. The non-amateur reader will be disgusted, and so, indeed, will even the reader interested in amateur affairs, for this shows a lack of originality and a childishness of expression that stamps the writer too plainly as having few ideas which can be truthfully called his own."

The editorial items in this issue of the VISITOR referred mainly to the previous conventions. One in particular, may be of interest:

"The most brilliant authors and editors in attendance at the Chicago conventions, were not remarkable for height of foreheads. Winslow's is remarkably low for a person of his undisputed ability. Misner, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was the only person we noticed that had a high and broad forehead."

The following item in this issue, was quoted at me over two years afterwards with crushing effect:

"Isn't it about time the various newly elected officers of our association should stir themselves, and show the amateur world that they amount to something."

How one is sometimes forced to eat his own words! 'Tis not a pleasant task by any means.

The night of October 11th, the same day

the issue of the VISITOR was published, Frank M. Morris and I took the train for St. Louis, with the intention of attending the first meeting of the Missouri A. P. A., which was to be held there the following day. Morris had confided to me that he would like to be the next president of the Western A. P. A., and I had promised to do all I could for him and start a "boom" in his favor among the amateurs we would meet, if I could. On our arrival, Saturday morning, October 12th, we were met at the depot by my old opponent in the "Hancock controversy," J. L. Watson, editor of the *Snark*, which was by this time defunct, however, who introduced himself to us. Amateur journalists have a peculiar knack of detecting each other, even among a crowd, which I cannot account for. In Watson's company we met L. W. Beaubien, of the *Amateur Mercury*, of Hannibal, Mo., who had been one of my strongest supporters, and also F. G. Fischer, now editor of Otto Niedermeyer's *Globe*. Then we hunted up Frank L. Seaver, whom I had met at Chicago, and once again I had the pleasure of an animated conversation upon amateur journalistic affairs.

In the afternoon an attempt was made to reorganize the "Mississippi Valley A. P. A.," in rooms at the Polytechnic building, and

J. L Watson was elected president; he afterwards appointed my VISITOR as the official organ of the association, which, however, never had another meeting.

In the evening, the Missouri A. P. A. was organized in the same rooms. Ten Missourians were present, including Watson, Beaubien, Seaver, Koch, Bohn, Fischer, Lingle, Rammelcamp, Kroeger, and Rogers, besides Morris and myself from Indianapolis, and W. H. Bradbury from Terre Haute, Ind. The visiting Indianians were allowed to participate in the proceedings and vote in the election of officers, which gave me an opportunity to defeat Seaver for the treasurship, thus "getting even," for his previous opposition to my candidacy for the presidency of the Western.

I also made a motion that the Association have a delegate each year to attend the Western's convention, and pay a part of his expenses, which, after a long debate, was finally adopted; and I was quite prominent on the "floor," having something to say on nearly every motion made.

Louis W. Beaubien, was elected to the presidency, and although quite young and boyish in his appearance and ways at that time, Beaubien made a good officer, his enthusiasm and activity balancing all lack of real ability.

While in St. Louis, I sounded "the boys" regarding Morris' intended candidacy for the presidency of the Western A. P. A., and prepossessed them in his favor as much as possible.

Morris and I had an enjoyable time during our two day's stay at St. Louis. As a matter of course, one great theme of conversation was the coming campaign of the National A. P. A., a subject that the average amateur journalist never tires upon. and among the boys at St. Louis, popular favor seemed to be divided between Huss and Lawrence.

A report of the St. Louis convention was published in the September VISITOR, which was not published until the early part of November. This issue was considerably smaller than the preceding numbers. It contained a department devoted to the Critic's League, and also one devoted to the Western A. P. A., wherein the VISITOR was announced as the temporary official organ of that association, the *Amateur Iowan* having suspended. One short editorial was published, on the old subject of the "Coming Campaign, wherein I stated that there would probably be six candidates in the field, and I particularly put in a word against Edward A. Oldham, who had been mentioned as a probable candidate.

The October VISITOR was printed about a week after the September issue was out of the press, and was mailed with it. The October issue was of a like size, and contained two columns of matter referring to the amendment of the constitution of the Western A. P. A., official departments of the Indiana A. P. A., Critic's League, and Mississippi Valley A. P. A., a column of "short notes" and an editorial on "Editorial Controversies," which, as it illustrates one feature of amateur journalism tolerably well, I will append:

"It seems to be the delight of numerous amateur editors to engage in as many quarrels with their cotemporaries, as they can possibly get into. Many seek these engagements and often attack, on trivial grounds. persons with whom they have had little to do, and know less, making their attack, at the same time, a challenge, and wording it in such a manner that a reply seems necessary for the preservation of the offended person's honor. They do this on the ground that editorial controversies are helpful to a journal's welfare—that they enliven and give "spirit" to the paper, and altogether, are far better relished than the regular, solid editorials, usually presented, thus making more interesting reading for subscribers. While not disputing the fact that the controversies, in some cases, are interesting, we take the ground that general participation in them is dangerous to the harmony and welfare of amateurdom. While we have a number of

amateur editors in our ranks who can receive attacks in the manner in which they are sent, still there are many who like to misinterpret the accusations often made by contemporaries, and retaliating according to their mistaken ideas of the matter, in many cases a scandalous "flare-up" is the result, alike highly discreditable to themselves and to the "Dom." Nothing can lower our little world more than these boyish quarrels. "Childishness" is too often betrayed, and such epithets as "liar," scoundrel," "blackguard," promiscuously indulged in. To outside observers, this exhibition is very unseemly, and accordingly they are influenced to pronounce the workings of Amateurdom 'mere child's play.'

An editor may enter into a controversy with the best intentions of keeping cool, but by aggravating taunts and sneers, he is often lead to break the bounds of his resolve and get seriously angry, in which case, calm, solid reasoning is often abandoned for the hasty, thoughtless expressions of rage.

We have noticed many controversies of this sort. Beginning in a modest, unpretending way, then developing into separate articles, with a head-line or so of flaring type, and at last falling into slandering items, neither party, even if defeated, yielding an inch from original statements.

Another class of controversies, are those in which two amateurs mutually agree to start, hurling all the vile names in the dictionery at each other, but secretly being firm friends and correspondents, or going in each other's

company, This has been practiced more than once."

This editorial was slightly commented upon, and I was accused of inconsistency, as it was claimed that I was notoriously a seeker for an engagement in one. Wyn. Morris, my quondam "Wapa" opponent, in particular, came back at me on this ground, and on account of the following item in this issue of the VISITOR:

"Attained ambition is a wonderful extinguisher of the activity of amateurs. Since our conventions, see how many formerly prominent amateurs have 'let loose their grip,' and are gradually retiring into oblivion. Ambition squelched also proves a successful 'cooler' to the amateur fever: for instance, note the retirement of Wyn. Morris."

Morris had been appointed chairman of the committee on the revision of the constitution of the Western A. P. A., which committee had failed to report at the Chicago convention, and as the Association's constitution was a very defective document, and illy-gotten up, in my "President's Column," in this issue of the VISITOR, I announced my intention of drafting a new constitution, which I would submit for the members' approval, at the next convention. I received a very indignant letter from Morris, on this subject, wherein he claimed that I had no

power to take the revision of the constitution out of the committee's hands, and announcing his intention of drafting a new document, himself.

It was about this time that the movement began for the substitution of some other word than "Amateurdom," as a name for the institution of amateur journalism, the *Eastern Sunbeam*, edited by Edward W. Frye, of Boston, Mass., being the first journal to agitate the subject, I believe, and in the VISITOR, this month, I stated my opposition to any change, as I did, also, three years afterwards.

The November, or 35th number of the VISITOR, was printed nine days after the October issue was out of the press, and was of uniform size. The department devoted to the Western A. P. A. was continued, and two columns were used in arguing for the reduction of the fees and dues, which, at that time, were one dollar each. My interest in the association, which was intense, was shown in this department, and western amateurs, in general, were highly pleased with it. This issue contained a list of my exchanges at that time, numbering sixty-five in all, of which, four years afterwards, but three survived, and these three, in the *interim*, had suspended and been resurrected.

One editorial on "Encouraging Words" was published in this issue. The following are the closing paragraphs:

" * * * Amateur journals, upon their first appearance in the ranks, receive little encouragement or notice, unless they are of such a character that criticism or praise bursts forth spontaneously. Only very excellent and very miserable sheets, however, are honored with this distinction. An average amateur journal, upon its entrance into the ranks is received with a mortifying coldness, but little notice being taken of it, and even that, perhaps, in a harsh criticism. Many of our amateur editors hardly know what it is to award a word of praise to anything beneath them. Time passes: the amateur aspirant manifests improvement and presently it takes a stand as a foremost journal: then, and not until then, does encouragement and praise come. But where one paper lives to arrive at this epoch, many succumb before, which, had they now and then been blessed with an encouraging word from their brothers of the press, would have lived to toil in the ranks months afterwards.

A word of encouragement, now and then, should certainly be extended by the typographical trojans to their younger brethern of the press. It will not take much room, and may do good."

I see that I announced in this issue, that "The VISITOR is now one of the oldest papers in all amateurdom," and the fact was a source of great congratulation to me. This

issue also contained an advertisement announcing back numbers of the VISITOR for sale, the many requests received for such having warranted the supposition that they would find a market.

The editorial items in this issue were but few, necessarily, considering the limited space. One stated that "We find it an incomprehensible fact that amateur conventions kill more papers than they are the means of giving birth too," and another "In the election of Hall, the old Gerner party scores its first victory."

I had heard that an issue of Hancock's *Club* was out, wherein he made some kind of an attack upon me, but no Indianapolis amateur received a copy.

An official department of the Indiana A. P. A., completed the contents of the November VISITOR. This association met at Indianapolis on the 28th. By this time, amateur affairs in the State had degenerated so very much, that there were not more than three amateur journals published within the borders of the "Hoosier Commonwealth," so but a small attendance was expected. Calculations to this result were not erroneous; but eight amateurs made an appearance, all these being "old stagers," including F. C. Fisbeck, of Terre Haute, D. P. Thomas, of

Bellmore, E. M. Hardy, of Edinburg, and L. D. Wells, O. L. Huey, F. M. Morris, Will. K. Graff, (formerly of Brooklyn) and myself, of Indianapolis. The meeting was naturally a very quiet and unenthusiastic affair—it takes the young blood to make things lively —and but little was done. I was elected temporary chairman. Resolutions were passed, expressing the opinion that the Chicago convention of the National had been legal, and censuring Alonzo P. Brown, of the *Pierian*, for his unfounded accusation of plagiarism against Huss, both emanating from myself. Other, unnoteworthy miscellaneous business was transacted, and resolutions passed. Frank M. Morris was elected to the presidency, to give him a boom for that office in the Western, and in default of any other, the VISITOR was reelected official organ. The constitution was slightly amended, and at the close of the session, which lasted two hours, and in the order of "literary exercises," Morris read a lengthy and well-written poem, and I followed with an essay upon amateur journalistic topics.

I defeated a motion, made by Morris, to the effect, that in the future, no amateur could become a member of the Indiana association, without also being a member of the National. I mention this, as some time

afterwards it was said that all my actions, since I entered the ranks, had been in accordance with a determination to secure the National's presidency. Had this really been the case, which it was not, a little display of "spread-eagleism" on my part, could have been made in quite a number of instances, such as the support of such projects as the above, and the path to my candidacy thus smoothed to a great extent.

Thus ended the fifth convention of the Indiana A. P. A., and with it ended the career of the association, for it never met again, although there exists to-day a State association, but it was formed three years afterwards.

A report of the convention of the association was printed in the December VISITOR, which was printed at the latter part of the month. This issue was similar in size to the three preceding, and besides the report, was filled with short editorial items, of which I quote several:

"To our sorrow, we can say that it has several times been the case that 'we did not receive a copy' of some journal giving us otherwise than a complimentary notice. And what is more, we know it to be a fact that there are a number of editors in our ranks, who are guilty of that despicable habit of criticising some individual harshly,

and then not sending him a copy of the paper. It may be the case that some picayunish persons may seek to conceal their inability to reply to a criticism, under a false complaint of this sort, but we take it, that oftener the complaint has foundation. And, by the way, it is our opinion that when harsh notice is taken of an amateur contemporary, editors should be sure that he receives a copy. Not to do this, looks small in an amateur journalist, no matter how the professional escapes it."...."We don't know how true it is, but it is said that those amateur financiers who propose plans for the organization of stock companies for the publication of a large journal, representing amateur journalism, etc., never possessed a dollar in their lives. At least, such a surmise is admissible, for it is certain that they would not know what to do with one, if they had."...."At the Chicago convention, last July, $65 of the association's money was taken to pay for a banquet. This money was not devoted to that purpose by any action of the amateurs assembled in convention. It seemed to be an understood thing, and so no motion was made to dispose of the money in that way. It follows as a matter of course, that the appropriation of the money was illegal. Now who is accountable for it? Hall is blamable, because it was his place to have represented the facts to the members and called for a regular vote on the matter. The banquet idea was his, throughout, we believe, and a very foolish one it was, whoever made it"...."Delavan W. Gee,

we hear, will also be a candidate for the N. A. P. A. presidency in 1879. We met Del. at Chicago, and the first thing he did was to 'set 'em up' to lemonade; therefore, you see, he has our kind regards. But on top of this, friend D. made some disparaging remarks concerning the Western A. P. A., which, though they might have been true enough, sounded rather harshly in the ears of the newly elected president. So we owe him something there, too. Personally we like Gee, and might be induced to support him, but just now we would say that we would rather not. Gee may be a fine parliamentarian (we know not his ability); he is a good author, was a fine editor, but is brilliant in nothing. Somehow we have a partiality to 'shining lights,' and, can we find none more brilliant, we may turn to the *Southern Star*."

The VISITOR had lost a great deal of its prestige while published in its small form, and I recognized that fact. But I knew myself capable of something better, and so published the following apparently egotistical claim:

"Although, perhaps, the VISITOR is not the representative amateur journal of the West, we feel satisfied in knowing that it might be, were we inclined to 'spread ourself.'"

The *Imp*, John Edson Briggs' paper, had the following comment in its December issue, in quoting my claim to the old age of my little journal:

"That is so, George, but old age is fast telling on the VISITOR, for it has long ago passed the zenith of its glory. Vale, George."

But opinions differ on every topic. List to the following from the December *Monumental:*

"The Welcome Visitor has ensmalled, but nevertheless it is filled with splendid editorials, and is as welcome to our sanctum as ever."

However, the VISITOR was now too small to suit me, and I intended to enlarge it at the commencement of the year, one reason of the reduction of the size being the advantage it gave me to "catch up with Father Time."

Although this had been an eventful year with me and advanced my reputation in amateur circles far above where it stood at the beginning, yet I had lost my ambition, to a great extent, and to this fact, more than any other, was due my inactivity at the close of the year. I saw nothing before me that I had not already reached, except what I deemed almost impossible to attain, and in consequence allowed my paper to deteriorate. Higher honors than I had possessed in the amateur journalistic fraternity I had not yet contemplated as within my grasp, and up to this time, no thoughts of running for the presidency of the National A. P. A., had en-

tered my head. This fact was not due so much to my lack of egotism, however, as probably to the fact that I knew that it would be nearly two years before that association again met in the West, that it was improbable that a candidate for the presidency from the West would be elected in 1879 at the Washington convention, and I was very doubtful whether my connection with the journalistic fraternity would not be severed long before the time of the assembling in 1880.

But the close of the year left me much more active than I had been during the fall, and I again furnished the amateur press with a number of articles.

The year 1878 marked one very important epoch in my amateur career, in the shaking off of all vassalage to the experience of other amateurs, and left me standing independently upon my own opinions. I had now carved out a name for myself that was respected, and all my former allegiance to such older heads as Dingwall and Mills, who had exerted a great influence over me at one time, was thrown aside.

It is naturally the case with every young amateur journalist, that upon entering the ranks, he pays homage to the experience and wisdom of those who have won fame

and honors previous to his connection with the fraternity, and for a time he is susceptible of being influenced by them. But it is a bright day for his own prospects when he pushes aside all constraint, and measures his intellect, confident of its own strength, against all others of his contemporaries. He then takes his first and necessary step to prominence and fame.

The close of the year left amateur journalism in, apparently, a very precarious condition. Fewer papers were published than had been at any one time, for years previous, or since the organization of "Amateurdom," and even the authors seemed to have dropped out of the ranks. Of the papers that were still published, there were but few that showed genuine ability, but these few gave the tone to the fraternity at large, and made a long stride towards emancipating the editorial columns from "boyishness," and giving them dignity and culture. I was not receiving over forty or fifty exchanges each month, and probably my exchange list was a fair criterion of others; but the boys still did not appear to be discouraged, as from editorial writings, they confidently expected a great change for the better, after 1879 had fairly commenced.

The Critic's League had virtually dropped

out of existence by the end of the year, nearly all of its original members having retired from the ranks, and those who remained manifested but little interest in the association, or, for matter of that, in anything else connected with amateur journalism. The stagnation was complete and terrifying, and looking back now, I almost wonder how amateur journalism survived.

The Editors' Lyceum was also in a peculiar state of affairs. According to its constitution, its president, first vice president, secretary and treasurer, and official editor were no longer capable of holding those offices, on account of their inactivity, but no active steps had been taken yet, to depose them. It remained for me to bring about that matter early in the next year.

Even the campaign for the National's presidency lacked life, and in the last days of December there was but one candidate, Arthur J. Huss, actively in the field, although other nominees were talked of, and at this time it appeared as if Huss would receive the office by default of opposition.

For the presidency of the Western association, no one seemed to be in the field except Frank M. Morris, although Frank L. Seaver was mentioned as a candidate, but I never knew of him having a supporter.

Amateur affairs were somewhat livelier in the East, and the Eastern A. P. A. held a very fairly attended convention in November.

PAPERS OF THE YEAR.

Never was there such a year, take it all-in-all, for really first class amateur papers, as was 1878, and it becomes too much of a task for me to chronicle in these pages anything like what I might feel tempted to mention. Take the year from beginning to end, and there were more papers published that reached a high standard in all departments, than were published in any two years previous or since, and I think that the early days of 1878 can truly be called the "halcyon era" of amateur journalism. One feature of the year was the large number of "all editorial" journals that were published, and many amateur journalists won a name in 1878 that has descended to the present day, surrounded by halos of fame and eminence.

The *Stylus*, of Tiffin, Ohio, published by Arthur J. Huss, as successor to the *Buckeye Boy*, was undoubtedly the most famous journal of the year, and one that has had many imitators since. It was "all editorial," and one particular feature seemed to be the personal controversies in which Huss was continually engaged. The *Stylus* also made itself notorious by attacks upon the writings of Richard Gerner, which had been generally accepted as proof to criticism, by the amateur press, on account of the great name of their author; but the *Stylus* demolished Gerner, effectually, and made his poetry the subject

of ridicule. Another thing that contributed to the *Stylus*' celebrity was its attacks upon many amateurs, who, like Gerner, had won fame in the ranks; and in consequence, Huss made many enemies. His avowed candidacy for the presidency of the National, and these other causes, resulted in bringing his name and the *Stylus* so prominently before the fraternity, that nearly every journal I received had something to say about the Ohio editor and his little paper. Huss was quite talented, but as a politician he was not discreet. As an editor he was unsurpassed, but editors of his stripe do not usually receive the nomination for Congress.

During the earlier portion of the year, the bulwark of amateur journalism undoubtedly centered in the West, and that section of the country boasted of having the best edited and handsomest journals.

Cairo, Ills., became famous as an amateur head-center, during the first months of the year, and about eight papers appeared from that place, at one time. Will. Wright's *Egyptian Star*, and Eugene E. Ellis' *Knight Errant* were the best, and these two journals were ranked among the ablest in the ranks, the *Knight Errant*, in particular, being exceptionably fine. Connected with this latter paper was Conway M. Grandville, (a *nom de plume*, perhaps) who, although his stay with the amateur fraternity lasted but a few months, yet achieved such a reputation, that he was classed among the foremost writers.

Mattoon, Ills., also sent forth about a half-

dozen sheets, but none of these displayed noteworthy ability.

Will. T. Hall's *Western Amateur* was published up to the time of his election to the presidency of the National A. P. A., but suspended immediately after. Hall was a fair writer, but there was nothing brilliant or "catching" about his productions. His paper was a very neat sheet, with a finely engraved heading, and published one novel feature in a serial entitled "Fifth Avenue," which was of six chapters, each chapter being written by a different and celebrated amateur author.

The *Fireside Gem*, from Appleton, Wis., was a fine, eight page sheet, but not mixing much in politics, it was regarded as a "slow coach." A year or so previous, it would have been classed as among the best papers published.

Our Boys, of Toledo, Ohio, was the oldest journal published in the ranks at the beginning of the year, but its age probably made it somewhat "old-fogyish," and little in sympathy with the fresh blood that had been infused into amateur journalism. But *Our Boys* was received with a degree of veneration by the fraternity, on account of its age.

Once a Month, from Hampton, Iowa, was a poorly printed, but interesting paper, that published some very entertaining contributed matter, including a series of "Letters from Hell,—By an Actual Sufferer," which were well-written and original, and excited considerable comment.

The *Quarterly Echo*, from Dublin, Ireland, was a neat magazine, which was exchanging

with all the American amateur papers at this time. It was a fair representative of European amateur journalism, and valued more for the distance which it had come than for the character of its contents.

O. M. Jefferds, an amateur of 1874, commenced publishing the *Amateur Newspaper Reporter*, from East Randolph, N. Y., in February. This paper was on the style of Rowell's well known *Newspaper Reporter*, of New York, and was a superb addition to the amateur ranks, but it expired with its third issue, Jefferds not finding time to continue its publication. The plan upon which it was published was a novel one, and has not been imitated since its suspension.

Correl Kendall's *Miscellany* was suspended previous to his defeat at Chicago, but I do not believe it was much missed, as all that made the *Miscellany* prominent, was the fact that it was Correl Kendall's paper.

The *Southern Star* was issued in eight page form for a few months, by D. W. Gee. of Washington, and in this shape, it was accorded a place very near the "top" of amateur journals. A series of papers on Amateur Conventions, were published in the *Star*, written by Wm. Furber Miller, one of the most famous amateurs of former days, and president of the first National A. P. A. at one time. This series of articles has helped me considerably, in the compiling of my history of amateur journalism, and they form a most valuable contribution to the annals of Amateurdom. The *Star* was never brilliantly edited—Gee's *forte* did not lie that

way, but its fine typographical appearance and able contributed articles made it popular.

Worthington's magazine, the *Literary World*, was suspended at the beginning of the year, but later on he commenced the publication of the *Crisis*, which was one of the handsomest and ablest sheets ever issued by an amateur. But the *Crisis* was also short lived, the publisher leaving amateur journalism "to embark in a professional enterprise."

Geo. W. Hancock's *Club* was enlarged during the Spring, but it lost a great deal of its typographical attractiveness, which had undoubtedly, much to do with its previous favorable reception by the amateur press. Hancock still kept up his reputation as a punster, and in this particular field, the *Club* stood unrivaled. But the defeat of Hancock for the National's presidency, brought about the suspension of his journal, soon afterwards.

The *Pierian*, edited by Alonzo P. Brown, (since deceased) of Brooklyn, N. Y., was a twenty-four page magazine, and it made itself notorious by its dabbling in politics, its vigorous opposition to Hall and Huss, and after cry of fraud, in the election of these two candidates. Brown was also engaged in a number of controversies, and the editorial columns of his magazine were always "red-hot."

The appearance of Herbert A. Clarke's *Le Bijou*, from Cincinnati, in August, was marked as the first amateur paper of note, ever published by a colored youth, and it surprised the fraternity by the ability which

was displayed in its editorial department. The first issue contained an editorial on "Religion," displaying infidelism, and was much commented upon.

Probably the best amateur journal ever published, was the July issue of *Our Free Lance*, of New York, which consisted of sixteen finely printed pages, sixty-four columns, filled with the choicest writings of the best authors in the fraternity, and edited splendidly by the publisher, Joseph P. Clossey. This issue was superb in every particular, and nothing equal to it has ever been issued by any amateur journalist—not that it could not have been done by other amateurs, but as this issue probably cost the publisher nearly $100, it will readily be realized that it is only once in a generation that a boy can be found who will throw that much money away on one issue of a paper that can bring him no pecuniary return.

Just previous to the Chicago conventions, Clossey also issued the *Jersey Blue*, under the *nom de plume* of "Cyril Vane," as a little magazine, which was fully up to the standard of the *Lance*, on a smaller scale.

The *Echo* was published by Fred M. Cornell, until July, and still made a specialty of republishing articles printed by the amateur press in former years. Cornell was said to be the son of a clergyman, and distinguished himself at Chicago, by his ability to drink unnumbered "whisky-sours" without getting drunk.

The *Waverly*, of Brooklyn, N. Y., became somewhat prominent this year, and its editors,

Wm. F. Buckley and Geo. W. Baildon, gave promise, through its columns, of the ability which afterwards made them famous.

The *Composing Stick*, of Ripley, Ohio, edited by Geo. W. Biehn, was a much respected sheet, but while it was steadily kept at an average degree of merit, it never rose into brilliancy.

James J. O'Connell's *Phœnix* hung out the banner of being "the largest amateur paper in Brooklyn," but it could not, also, well inscribe "the best." In these days, interest in the *Phœnix* was centered in Buckley's contributions to it, and O'Connell used his pen so very little that he gave but faint promise of becoming the brilliant and versatile writer that he finally became.

The St. Louis *Acorn*, edited by Nathan Cole and Frank L. Misner, was unsurpassed in editorial ability, and although small, it can be classed as one of the finest sheets issued during the year. Misner, in particular, was unsurpassed in editorial ability, and was a writer of great versatility, and it was his ability that made the *Acorn* what it was.

Edward A. Oldham first became conspicuous this year, as editor of the *Bethel Cadet*, from Wilmington, N. C. The *Cadet* was not particularly interesting at this time, and the most interesting feature published by it during the year, was Richard Gerner's letter of declination of the nomination to the presidency of the N. A. P. A., wherein he wrote the following celebrated paragraph: "I will give Amateurdom one year to live and die

in, unless there arises an amateur Napoleon in the interval, a powerful mind to sieze the reins of government, kick the rabble into a corner, and devote half of his life to the 'dom s interests." The "amateur Napoleon" did not make his appearance, and Amateurdom still lives.

Even with the first issues of *Our Sanctum* of Philadelphia, N. Y., the editor, Will. T. Scofield, commenced displaying that ability as a critic which afterwards made him famous.

One of the largest papers issued during the year was the *Boys' Gazette*, of Philadelphia, Penn., edited by Philip Hano and Harry J. Calvert, the latter now editor of *Calvert's Magazine*, a professional monthly, issued from New York. The *Gazette* was a handsome sheet, well edited and finely printed. Richard Gerner's famous poem, "The Fallen Angel," was published in its March issue.

The *Amateur Blade*, of Buffalo, N. Y., was started by Thos. H. Parsons, at the commencement of the year, and it soon won a name for itself, by its fine printing and the wit which its editor displayed. Parson's writings were very boyish, and he did not attempt much editorial composition, then, but his wit pleased his readers, and by the end of the year, the *Blade* was quite popular.

The famous little *Imp* appeared two or three times this year, its erratic editor having gone with a government surveying party to the Rocky mountains, during the summer. Very few amateur editors have had the

ability to write as pungently and logically as John Edson Briggs, and the appearance of the *Imp* was ever a rare treat to the young disciples of Faust.

The *Rounce* was the peculiar name of a journal started in July, by Ralph Van Vechten, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This paper was modeled after the *Stylus*, in its typographical form, and in its career of eight or nine months, it manifested an ability that was honorable to its editor.

Our Own Journal, edited by Chas. H. Young, of New York, was one of the leading papers of the year, and was advertised by its proprietor as "The King of Amateur Papers." It was not that, although it was peerless in certain particulars, but excelled in others. The December issue was very fine, consisting of sixteen, three column pages, neatly printed, and with a number of excellent contributions from the best authors in the ranks. Young made himself universally popular at the Chicago convention, and he was nominated for the presidency of the National in '79; but he declined to run.

The year 1878 brought out one amateur from comparative obscurity, to the height of fame, in the person of Samuel W. Lawrence, publisher of the *Eastern Star*, of Medford, Mass. Lawrence's liberal views on Religion, as published editorially, first attracted general attention to the *Star*, which was rapidly improved, and manifested so much ability towards the close of the year, that its editor was a popular choice for the next presidency of the National. The December and "fare-

well" issue of the *Star*, was a triumph of amateur journalism, but its suspension killed all political prospects for Lawrence.

In December the *Satirist* was first issued by Chas S. Elgutter of Omaha, Neb., his former paper having long previous suspended, and showed the decided ability which has ever characterized everything from Elgutter's pen.

The *Eastern Sunbeam*, of Boston, Mass., was edited by Edward W. Frye, one of the most enthusiastic amateurs ever in the ranks. The *Sunbeam* was improved very much this year, and by the end of '78 it had achieved notoriety enough to allow me to class it among the prominent journals, where it was placed, not so much through the editor's ability, as by his energy and enthusiasm. Frye was ambitious for political honors, but he was not discreet enough to hide his ambition, and in thrusting it before the fraternity, he became unpopular.

The *Independent Times* was commenced in January, by Frank N. Reeve, of Newark, N. J., and this journal had a famous career, covering four years and a half. At the start, the *Times* was commonplace enough, although never being poorly or boyishly edited, but by the end of the year, it had quadrupled its original size, and became famous through the ability shown by its editor in political writings. In these, Reeve had found his *forte*, and throughout his career, it were these that proved the mainspring to his reputation.

I will close these brief sketches of the

papers of the year, by speaking of the first numbers of the *National Amateur*, which was published by the National A. P. A., as its official organ, and sprung into existence by the adoption of the new constitution, at Chicago, in July. The first *National Amateur* was printed by Arthur J. Huss, in four page, twelve column form, and edited by C. C. Chase, who had been elected as the association's official editor. A short report of the convention, president Hall's message, an article on "Early Campaigning," by A. J. Huss, and a number of able editorials completed the contents of the first issue. Chase had done remarkably well—much better than it had been thought he was capable of doing—in fact, so much better, that it was currently rumored that Huss was the real editor of the *Amateur*, but this was denied. Gee and Fynes were given a raking over for non attendance to their duties, and on the whole, the first issue was eminently satisfactory. The second, or December issue, contained J. W. Snyder's address made before the Chicago convention, wherein occured the since oft-quoted passage asserting that "Amateur journalism is a flame that perpetually renews itself, and can never wear out." Hall's second message, wherein he inconsistently condemned "early electioneering," a number of editorials, one of course, on the "Postal Troubles," and the establishment of "The News" department, a feature which has been continued ever since, made up the second issue.

AUTHORS OF THE YEAR.

Stephen W. Bartlett, under the *nom de plume* of "John Quilldriver," did some fine literary work this year, and as a sketch and serial writer, he occupied a high place in the esteem of the fraternity. Chas. H. Young was quite prolific for a time. His serial, "Red and White" in the *Independent Times*, attracted much attention, but it was hardly up to his standard, and his shorter articles displayed much more merit. Del. W. Gee, "Quintus," published several articles of exceptionable merit, but he was hardly prolific enough to take rank as a leading writer. J. C. Worthington, "Clifton," wrote some quite excellent articles, and his effusions displayed an originality in thought and plot that marked them much above the average amateur writer. Worthington was an original thinker, some of whose articles would have graced any periodical, and I saw nothing from his pen, this year, that did not bear the stamp of genius. His "Curious Worlding," published as a serial in the *Eastern Star*, although smacking a little of Jules Verne, was yet the most unique and brilliant thing of the kind, published during '78. This year, Joseph D. Miller and Thos. W. Tressidder first became noticable as contributors of poetry to the amateur press, and Charles Ficke made his appearance as a writer of serials, in which field he seemed to have devoted every energy. Wm. F. Buckley published a few good sketches and some very bad ones, but showed evidence of ability. Jas. J. Elderdice, and "Caxton Stanley" were

the best known poets of the year, and many of their effusions were remarkable for their excellence, and were inserted in the best amateur papers of the country. "Stuyvesant" was the *nom de plume* of a writer who contributed some unexcelled prose sketches and serials, principally to Brooklyn and New York amateur papers. Clarence E. Stone wrote quite prolificly for a time and usually very well. Huss was also prolific, more so in the earlier portion of the year than at its close, and his articles showed a marked improvement over his writings of the preceding year, as, indeed, did those of all other authors, for our amateurs writers, as a rule, are of an age when improvement is rapidly achieved. Edward A. Oldham showed himself as the author of a number of articles this year, the majority of which, however, being but of mediocre ability, particularly so being his poetic effusions. Richard Gerner published a large number of poems from his pen during the year, some being quite good, but others decidedly inferior. Gerner's writings were always printed by the amateur press, but this year he was subjected to an avalanche of harsh criticisms. A serial by "Karl C. Yelraf," entitled "Irene, or Caught at Last," was began in the *Aldine*, and the first two chapters written by him. The remaining chapters, however, were written by the editor of the *Aldine*, F. M. Morris, who, however, did not change the original *nom de plume* under which the publication of the story was commenced. Nearly the entire fraternity was deceived by this trick, and

the *Aldine* reaped the prestige of publishing one of Farley's popular serials. "Winslow" was heard from occasionally, but this year he was comparatively inactive, especially after the Chicago meeting. "Harrago" furnished a large number of humorous articles to the amateur press, Wm. Furber Miller commenced a splendid serial entitled "A Strange Fellow" in *Our Own Journal*, "Nettie Sparkle" contributed a pretty serial to the *Amateur*, Chas. C. Heuman was heard from occasionally, and a score or more of well-known authors contributed occasional articles to the amateur press, whose names I cannot find space to mention.

But, despite the great display of authorial ability, 1878 was the poorest year for the publication of amateur books that had been known since the organization of amateur journalism, as there were hardly any published that commanded any attention. Several parties advertised their intentions of publishing United States Amateur Directories, but the close of the year failed to reveal any such in print. "Snow-Bound" by "Aviz," was a little volume favorably mentioned by the amateur press. Will. S. Knox, of Marietta, Ohio, published a number of small pamphlets which were not very well received; and a number of small books were issued, but none by any well known authors. Probably "Man's Destiny and Other Poems," by E. A. Oldham, and "Sprays of Thought," by "The Duke," received more notices than any other volumes issued during the year. The first brought Oldham into notoriety, but the critic

isms passed upon his book were not complimentary. "Spray of Thought" was well-received and probably more favorably spoken of than any other volume issued during the year.

PASSING EVENTS.

Under this head I will include the receptions tendered John Edson Briggs and Wm. T. Hall, by the amateurs of New York and vicinity, both during the month of March.

The reception in honor of Hall was gotten up in his interests as a candidate for the presidency of the National, while he was in New York. About thirty amateurs were present, and speeches were made by Hall, W. F. Babcock, (who had some ambition to serve as first vice president of the National) Gerner, and two New York reporters on the professional press. Hall's remarks were of a desultory order, and consumed about two minutes, at the close of which he apologized for being no orator, and sat down. Babcock, on rising, "put one hand on his chest, and the other on the top of his head, which he patted approvingly," and started off by saying "I'm Babcock of *Centennial* notoriety," making by all odds the weakest speech of the evening. Gerner made a few impromptu remarks which were classed as better than those preceding, and referred to several personal matters.

The affair was a failure as a boom for Hall, although pleasant enough to those attending.

The reception tendered Briggs, who was in New York *en route* for Paris, France, was

also a pleasant affair, at which some forty amateurs were present. Speeches were made by several amateurs and a discussion ensued as to the advisability of publishing a paper at the Paris Exposition, the question finally being settled by vote, in the negative. Jos. P. Clossey's Address was the event of the evening and was a well-written document.